The Maryland Yellowthroat

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

MAY/JUNE 2004 VOL. 24, NO. 3

President's Corner

Farewell and Looking Ahead

by Paul Zucker

This is my last opportunity to address you while still president of MOS. For me it has been a time of challenge and excitement, accompanied by amazement at what this organization achieves with a small operating budget and no permanent staff. For these accomplishments, I thank the large number of our dedicated volunteers.

Starting with our retreat in November 2002, we have set a new direction for this society: defining our goals and proposing new activities and committees. A new structure for our committees, with each group responsive to one member of the executive committee, has been approved by the board of directors. Now we are in the process of defining or redefining the goals and purposes of each committee for inclusion in our Manual of Operations. I see our goals as falling into a few broad categories: improving internal communications (a prototype of our new discussion board is now up and running), increasing our activity level (both for our members and in reaching out to the larger conservation community and to the public), and increasing our membership (especially with young birders). We are building momentum in these areas, and I am confident that this will continue.

The greatest challenge for me as president has been filling the large number of committee chairs and other major posts that have opened up (or been newly created) during the past two years. This effort is now nearly complete, but

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Conference 2004 Roundup

June 11–13 • Washington College, Chestertown, Kent County

Official Slate

The Nominating Committee proposes the following list of names for officers for 2004-2005:

President: Janet Millenson (Montgomery)
Vice-president: Marcia Balestri (Frederick)
Secretary: Janet Shields (Frederick)
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (Howard)

The nominations will be presented for a vote by the membership at the annual Business Meeting in Chestertown on June 12. Additional nominations can be made from the floor, provided that the nominee is in agreement.

—Al Haury, Chair

Pin Contest

The winner of the 2004 Pin Contest is **Ellen Lawler** of Salisbury, whose design depicts an Eastern Kingbird. Ellen, a Professor of Biological Sciences at Salisbury University, has been painting seriously for the past 15 years. Her work—which has been accepted into juried shows and received awards at various shows on the Eastern Shore—will be on display at the Conference Artists' Exhibit.

"I have always been fascinated by the natural world, particularly by birds," writes Ellen. "I have lived on the Eastern Shore of Maryland for 15 years and try to spend as much time as possible in the field, sketching and photographing the varied habitats and species present here. These sketches and photos become the references for my watercolor and colored pencil work."

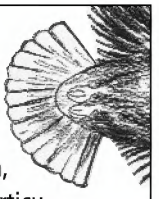
Shade-grown Coffee Flyer

This year's Conference packets, in addition to delivering Conference pins and programs, descriptions of field trips and locations of meeting places, will enclose a flyer promoting shade-grown coffee. Developed by **Carol Schreter** of Baltimore, the flyer extols the benefits of shade-grown coffee to birds and their habitats.

Carol has actively promoted the information, having recruited the Starbucks District Manager to distribute the flyer to the managers of his 10 Baltimore area stores and the Rainforest Curator at the Aquarium to distribute it to staff and volunteers. Carol urges birders to buy shade-grown coffee, to ask their retailers to stock it, and, in the interest of education, to make a gift of it to friends.

(Conference Roundup continues on page 2)

Telling Tales



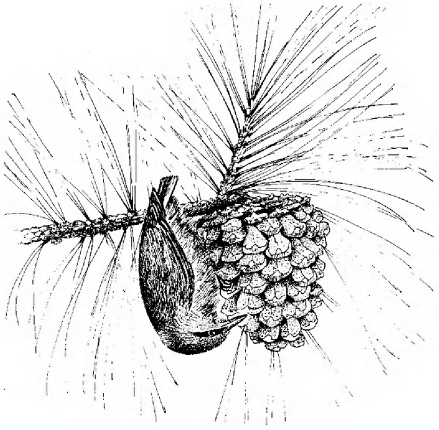
Gail Mackiernan, Barry Cooper, and friends, on a birding trip in South Africa, were driving through a particularly desolate area of the Great Karoo desert when they spotted a General Store in the distance. A great place to stop for a Coke, they thought, and they barreled up to the storefront. "Cut!" they heard. "Cut! Cut!" They had just blundered onto a movie set. (And no, adds Gail, there were NOT any Cokes for sale!)

Conference Roundup *(continued from page 1)*

One more recommendation from Carol: a book for shade-grown coffee drinkers. "*Death of a Songbird* by Christine Goff (Penguin Books, 2001, $6 paperpack) is a fascinating mystery story involving shade-grown/organic coffee, its Mexican growers, and bird-friendly importers. Story takes place in Colorado, at a birders convention. A fun and informative read."

And don't forget the check!

Conference-goers will need to bring a $25 check (no cash) to secure a key at Washington College.



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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Copy may be mailed or e-mailed to Lydia Schindler by August 1, 2004 for the September/October issue.

Illustrations on pages 1, 2, 4, 14, 17 and 23
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DNR Reports... by Glen Therres

Given Maryland's rapidly developing landscape and the corresponding **loss of wildlife habitat**, it is imperative to identify areas important for the conservation of wildlife and to develop strategies to protect these areas. With funds from a new federal program called State Wildlife Grants, DNR's Wildlife and Heritage Service has initiated such an endeavor. Over the next 18 months, we will be creating a comprehensive wildlife diversity plan that identifies key wildlife habitats across the State and the conservation actions necessary to protect, manage, or restore these areas.

The plan will focus on species of greatest need, primarily those with populations at risk of endangerment, extirpation, or extinction. It will give emphasis to those species that have garnered little traditional funding in the past, primarily nongame fish and wildlife species, as well as species already listed by the Natural Heritage Program as rare, threatened, or endangered. The wildlife diversity plan will complement existing game species management plans.

We are now starting to identify the target species. Under consideration are several categories of birds, including species identified as priorities by Partners in Flight and other bird conservation initiatives. Colonial waterbirds, forest interior breeding birds, grassland breeding birds, and shrubland successional breeding birds are being considered. Reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, freshwater fish, and invertebrates at risk will also be considered. **We will be soliciting input on this list at a workshop in late May or June; the workshop will be announced on the DNR web page (www.dnr.state.md.us).**

Once we have designated the wildlife species of greatest conservation need, we will identify the key habitats and watersheds that support these species and map their distributions in the State. Since the number of species of concern will likely exceed 500, targeting key habitats and watersheds is more practical than addressing each species individually. The intent is to use species of greatest conservation need to serve as indicators for all wildlife species. And since conservation actions usually focus on habitat, this approach will result in an efficiency of scale. Threats to the species and their habitats will then be assessed.

To identify conservation actions necessary to protect, manage, or restore the key habitats and watersheds, we will again solicit input from stakeholders. We plan to convene another workshop early in 2005 for this purpose. Complementary conservation initiatives (e.g., The Nature Conservancy's ecoregional planning or National Audubon Society's Important Bird Areas) will be considered for incorporation.

Other components of the plan will include monitoring, environmental education, wildlife-related recreation, and plan review processes. Once it is drafted, the plan will be available for public review and comment prior to finalization.

We are looking to use this wildlife diversity plan as a blueprint for conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitats over the next decade. We are hoping our partners in the conservation community will become involved. Your input and assistance will be appreciated.

MAY COUNT 2004

Once Again, Looking for Breeders among Migrants

It's that time again! May Count 2004 will be held in the MD-DC area on Saturday, May 8. For those new to the concept, the May Count is an effort to identify and record all the bird species heard and seen in a defined territory during the course of one 24-hour period. The 24-hour period was long ago established as the second Saturday of May, rain or shine, tornados or snow. The territories are the counties throughout the entire state, with each county being further divided into smaller areas that are assigned to volunteer observers. This count is conducted by volunteers such as yourself, people who enjoy birding and spending the day outdoors. Any birding skill level is welcomed.

Many volunteers prefer to work in their home county or favorite birding place. As a result, the central part of the state receives great coverage, while the rural counties on the Eastern Shore and in Western Maryland are always in need of additional birders to help with their counts. Please consider offering your help in one of those counties this year. I suspect that once you have spent the day birding in these areas, you will find the warbler and shorebird habitats exciting and challenging. Who knows? Perhaps they will become your newest favorite place!

Some of the species observed at this time of year will have already begun their breeding season. Once again, we are asking birders to record data that can be used for the *Breeding Bird Atlas* project, now in the third year of a five-year effort to determine the presence and distribution of birds breeding in Maryland. (See the MOS web site for information on the *Atlas* project.) Please spend a few extra moments watching birds to determine whether they are exhibiting breeding behavior. Your county compiler will provide you with an Incidental Report Form and a list of breeding codes for determining and recording breeding behavior.

A list of county compilers is provided in this newsletter. Please contact the compiler for the area in which you wish to count, and that person will provide you with the forms and maps you will need for your day of adventure as a Citizen Scientist.

In years past, the checklist and the rarity form have been printed in the *Yellowthroat*. This year I am producing them as Word documents, so that the compilers can print and mail these forms to their observers or forward them as e-mail attachments. We use an Excel spreadsheet for compiling the reports, so the county compiler could forward the Excel document as well.

May Count data are compiled into a table and will appear in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. This report will include totals for the number of species and individual birds observed, the number of hours spent for this day's effort, and a list of participants. The breeding behavior data will be sent to the county *Atlas* project coordinators so that the information can be included in the five-year report. You will be recognized for your effort in the acknowledgements sections of both projects, so be sure to provide your compiler with your name, address, and phone number.

Have a wonderful day and Good Birding!

—Wanda Diane Cole, Statewide Coordinator

President's Corner *(continued from page 1)*

filling chairs is not enough. In the past, the work of many committees was performed mainly by the chair alone. We need each committee to have an active and committed membership, and therefore I will be continuing to make additional committee membership appointments during the next few months. If any of you have an interest or preference, please contact me.

I am pleased to announce that Bob Ringler has agreed to undertake the task of providing the seasonal reports for *Maryland Birdlife*. He will be ably assisted in the data handling by Eric Sprague and Bob Solem. This is part of a concerted effort to catch up with our publication of that journal. According to Chan Robbins, the editor, "We shall be catching up by producing four annual volumes," the first of which will hopefully be ready "in a couple of months." Helping to assemble the copy is Jo Solem, who has already put out a request for old committee and chapter reports. In the same vein, I would like to remind the chapters and committees that a short report on this year's activities is due to me by the conference (at the latest).

At its most recent meeting, the Board of Directors approved our new budget. The total operating fund expense (equal to the anticipated income) is budgeted at $38,600. Of this total, $14,750 is earmarked for publications. Small increases for Executive Committee members' expenditures reflect their new efforts to coordinate committee groups. Additionally, there are allocations for the new Membership Committee and the new Historian. A special expense of $2,000 is earmarked for computer hardware and software in support of the season reports. The budget for the *Breeding Bird Atlas* is $64,000, supported mainly by a Department of Natural Resources grant and the income from our non-designated funds. For our designated funds, income has increased this past year; thus the scholarship, sanctuary, research, and education budgets are larger for the coming year. Since our education committee has now been replaced by the Statewide Educational Activities and Youth Programs Committees, the income of the education funds will be split between these two new committees.

I would like to close by expressing special thanks to Al Haury and the nominating committee for pulling together the excellent slate of officers for next year. Furthermore, I owe an infinite debt of appreciation to the other members of the Executive Committee, who have all provided massive support to me and to MOS these last two years. I am enthusiastically and optimistically looking forward to my new role as Past President.

How Are We Doing? The MD/DC Atlas After Two Years

by Walter Ellison

Two years ago, MOS embarked on its second *Atlas* project. As we prepare to plunge into the busiest part of Field Season III, we have a chance to look back down the trail and assess our progress. As of early March 2004, atlasers had provided data for 1,010 blocks, 78% of the 1,295 blocks listed on the Patuxent atlas website for Maryland and the District of Columbia. Nearly 60% of these blocks have 50 or more species. Of these, over 230 are virtually completed with 70 or more species; most such blocks only require 5 to 10 more species and a handful of additional nesting confirmations. Looking at the glass as half-empty, we find over 40% of blocks needing much more work, while 285 blocks still lack any reports. We have three more years to fill the gaps in our map, but we will need perseverance and energy to add the birds, confirmations, and blocks required to finish the job.

We now have enough information to examine the ranges of Maryland and D.C. birds to see possibly shrinking distributions, as well as birds conquering new frontiers (or occupying former territory). The *Breeding Bird Atlas* can reveal these changes to us, but it cannot pinpoint the causes; those are a matter of speculation until targeted follow-up research can be done. Another point I must stress is that it is easier to document a range expansion than a decline. It is obvious when a bird appears where it was not before; it is less sure, without thorough hunting, that a bird has completely disappeared from a place.

I have drawn a number of distribution maps from "raw" atlas data, and see that declining birds show the basic outlines of their 1980s ranges from the first *Atlas*. The declines are indicated by widening gaps between the occupied atlas blocks. To put it more colorfully, declining bird ranges change from cheddar to Swiss cheese—they fill up with ever-widening holes until the outer periphery of the range crumbles. This pattern puts a premium on conscientious searching for the missing birds to prove they are truly not there. We can't afford holes in our coverage or less-than-careful searching of our blocks. Nonetheless, the 2002-2003 data have revealed some steep declines and a few impressive increases.

*Among the declines are **Northern Bobwhite** and **Vesper Sparrow** among our farmland birds and **Kentucky and Hooded Warblers** and **Broad-winged Hawk** among forest birds.*

*The **Northern Bobwhite** has virtually disappeared from large portions of the state west of Chesapeake Bay. The widespread records on the Western Shore are in Southern Maryland. Bobwhites are still widespread on the Eastern Shore but have contracted greatly on the Upper Shore and are less numerous on the Lower Shore. Miniroutes will be useful for proving declines.

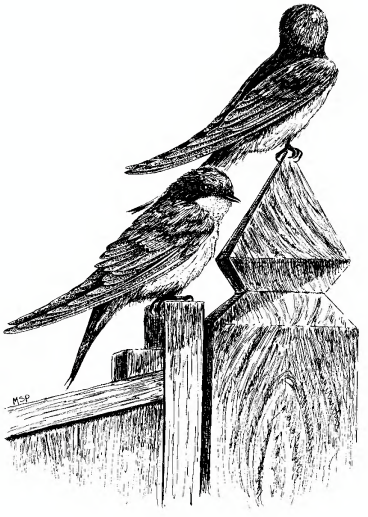
*I have less detail for **Vesper Sparrow**, but consider that it has been discovered in only 68 blocks thus far, in contrast to 301 blocks during 1983-1987.

***Hooded and Kentucky Warblers** have similar habitats, moist mature woodland with lots of shrubs, but they had somewhat different ranges in the 1980s. The Hooded was limited to regions with more extensive, less fragmented forests, whereas the Kentucky ranged much more widely on the Piedmont and Eastern Shore. After two years of atlasing, both species still show the basic outlines of their 1983-1987 ranges, but both have suffered apparent losses. These are especially evident on the Piedmont, where both are far less widespread, but it is also evident for Kentucky Warbler on the Eastern Shore. A local example for both species is provided by the Lower Shore, where Hooded has apparently almost disappeared and the Kentucky has largely retreated to the Pocomoke River valley. The causes of these apparent declines may be suburban sprawl, browsing of the understory by a burgeoning deer herd, and perhaps lumbering on the Lower Shore.

*Another forest bird that may have crashed is the **Broad-winged Hawk**, which has been found in only 68 blocks, compared to 384 in the 1980s.

*Two examples of range expansion are offered by **Cooper's Hawk** and **Tree Swallow**:*

*In the case of the hawk, the range expansion marks a return to this predator's historic range. **Cooper's Hawks** were found in 177 blocks during the first atlas but have been located in 210 blocks in just the first two years of the current project. The greatest increase for Cooper's Hawk has been on the Piedmont and Western Shore, but it has also increased notably on the Eastern Shore.



***Tree Swallows** showed one of the most impressive range expansions in the previous atlas, and they have consolidated and improved upon the original increase over the last two decades. This harbinger of spring was noted in 418 blocks in the 1980s and this time has already been reported from 464.

For many species that may be stable, the jury is still out. For instance the **Northern Cardinal** was found in 1,217 blocks last time and has been found in 856 blocks thus far in 2002-2003. It is obvious that atlasers need to see if the cardinal still occurs in the 361 blocks where it has yet to be reported. It's time to go afield and find the patterns that will allow researchers to target the birds in trouble and to try to understand why some species have fared better than others.

Atlas Funding Update

As we enter the heart of field season number three, the *Atlas* project is a bit less strapped for money than in the first two years. However, the upcoming atlas seasons still face expenses for travel reimbursement for miniroutes, for "block busting," and to help pay for special surveys of night birds and shy wetland denizens.

The *Atlas* project gratefully acknowledges two generous chapter donations in March, from the Allegany County chapter ($100) and the Montgomery Bird Club ($1,000), both of which will be matched by the Howard Bird Club. Further chapter donations would be most welcome. Individual donations are also welcome, as are pledges to George Jett's Charles County Big Year effort, and to the Holy Order of Loggerhead Shrikes World Series of Birding team. We would also appreciate anyone letting us know about potential grants or funding sources that fit in well with our goal of mapping the birds of our state and District to provide a guideline for intelligent regional planning and conservation decisions.

—Walter Ellison

World Series of Birding

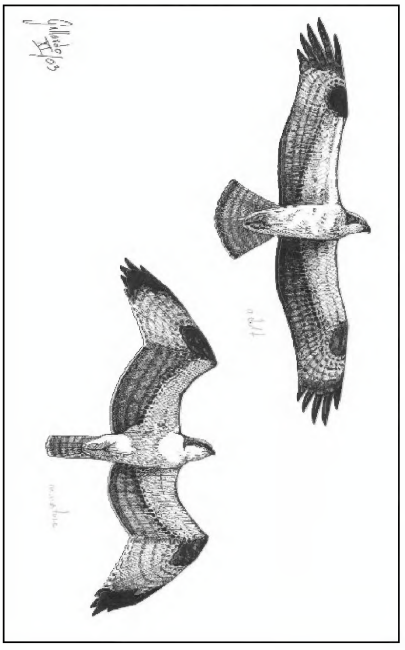
This year, three worthy causes stand to benefit from MOS efforts in the World Series of Birding in New Jersey on May 15.

The MOS team, The Holy Order of Loggerhead Shrikes,** will raise funds for two projects, the ***Maryland-DC Breeding Bird Atlas and **Pronatura Veracruz**, a Mexican grass-roots conservation organization that protects critical habitat in the Mexican State of Veracruz, including the famed "River of Raptors." Team members will be the same as 2003: Gordon Gover, John Hubbell, Andy Rabin, and Don Simonson. Birding 24 hours in just one county (Cape May County), the team aims to surpass their previous record of 156 species. Donors can pledge on the team website, **www.holyshrikes.com**.

***Zach Baer**, Talbot Co, with four years' experience on WSB youth teams, will be working to raise $1,000 for the **Pickering Creek Audubon Center**. Pickering Creek, just north of Easton, is directly involved with the local school system, giving all students the opportunity to learn about their local wildlife, including birds. Zach's team, the "Coastal Cuckoos," will be covering the entire state of New Jersey, and they could find as many as 200 species. To pledge, contact Zach at **bbaer@intercom.net**.

PRONATURA VERACRUZ

The stunning artwork of **Julio Gallardo**, a 25-year-old Mexican biologist, birder, artist and photographer, is a happy reflection of the influence of Pronatura Veracruz. As Don Simonson, Captain of the Holy Shrikes World Series of Birding team, established in an Internet interview, Julio first came into contact with Pronatura when he was only 14. He met Pronatura's Sergio Aguilar in the Macuiltepec Ecological Park in Xalapa, and a couple of days later he was a volunteer in the regional museum of the fauna at the park.



"Sergio Aguilar started to teach me lots of new things about animals, plants, and ecosystems—the first step in my career as biologist, birder and conservationist. I had wanted be a biologist since I was 8 years old, but meeting Sergio was one of the most important things that helped me focus my dreams. . . . A year after I met Sergio, he tried to push me more, gave me the opportunity to test my skills, and gave me more responsibility by giving me a job at Pronatura." At Pronatura, Julio conducted Bearded Wood-Partridge surveys, worked part-time as a field coordinator in the Land Conservation and Cloud Forest Program, guided birding tours, and counted hawks for the River of Raptors project. He has subsequently earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology and worked with a variety of conservation and wildlife organizations.

"My interest in drawing and birds has been with me since I was a child, but after my contact with Pronatura, I started to focus more and more on the details, and I am still working to try to do a better job with my artwork," Julio explains. Currently he is developing educational materials for Hawk Mountain, illustrating the most important raptor migrants in North America and the Neotropics.

The Conservation Connection

By Maureen F. Harvey

IN MARYLAND

Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) [House Bill 1308] may not do enough to protect wildlife and habitats. The bill purports to reduce threats from air pollution and global warming by requiring that a percentage of Maryland's power be derived from renewable energy sources (e.g., clean biomass and wind energy, not fossil fuels). Daniel Boone, MOS member and spokesperson for the Sierra Club's Maryland Chapter, after reviewing amendments to this bill, concluded, "Sadly, the use of 'biomass' collected from native forests is still considered a qualifying source of renewable energy, and its use will be detrimental to our region's biodiversity by encouraging more frequent and intensive logging. . . . The amendments did not require out-of-state wind energy projects to evaluate project impacts for birds and bats. In fact, bats are still not mentioned as a concern for wind energy facilities that are built outside of Maryland, even though this group has been found to suffer incredibly high mortality from collision with industrial wind turbines at facilities in the region. Unfortunately, HB 1308 and its amendments still do not provide adequate wildlife or habitat protections. . . . HB 1308 will not reduce the threats from air pollution and global warming, and will encourage industrial development of our forests, ridges, and public lands."

Roth Rock not good site for wind plant. A consultant to Synergics, Inc. of Annapolis has asked MOS to comment on a proposal to build 23 wind turbines near Roth Rock, a well-known Garrett Co birding hotspot. MOS Conservation Committee penned a letter to the company stating, in part, "We believe that renewable sources of energy are highly desirable and generally support environmentally-responsible renewable energy sources, such as wind power. . . . However, we are concerned about the loss of habitat for several state rare or endangered breeding birds as well as deaths caused by turbine collisions. . . . Backbone Mountain in the vicinity of the old Roth Rock fire tower would be a very poor site for wind turbines because: **(1) it is the only known nesting site where the state-endangered Mourning Warbler can be found with any regularity; (2) it is also a nesting site for two other rare breeding birds in Maryland, the Dark-eyed Junco and Winter Wren; (3) the ridge top is an important migration route for hawks; and (4) this site is just a few miles from the West Virginia wind plant located on the same ridge that had a large bird kill in 2003."**

Keeping nature in AA Co's Franklin Point Natural Area. MOS Conservation Committee wrote to Anne Arundel County's Department of Parks & Recreation officials to encourage them to keep Franklin Point Natural Area natural, in line with reasons for the original purchase, to save the area from becoming a housing development. AA Co officials are considering building ball fields in this special place. The MOS letter was also published in the *Capitol Gazette* and *Baltimore Sun*, AA Co Supplement. The letter said, in part, "The MOS is in favor of maintaining Franklin Point Natural Area as open space with use limited to low-impact, passive outdoor recreation and nature interpretive activities. Such use is in concert with the goals of the citizens of Maryland to protect the Chesapeake Bay and the unique wildlife and plants that live around its borders. Grassland species are in particular peril. . . . Franklin Point contains a sizable tract of viable grassland habitat that would be ideal for conservation of threatened grassland species. Birding, unlike baseball or soccer, is a hobby practiced by individuals of all ages. . . . Multi-purpose ball fields would change Franklin Point Natural Area forever. Please preserve this area in its natural state so that all citizens will benefit, not just a few for a few years of their lives."

NATIONAL NEWS

MOS and ABC support Rep. Gilchrest's draft bill to exempt exotic birds from MBTA. ABC's Gerald Winegrad wrote, "Back in July 2003, MOS was among 25 organizations that signed on to an American Bird Conservancy (ABC) letter supporting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) plan to reduce the burgeoning Mute Swan population. . . . Under the proposed action, state and federal agencies would apply for Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) depredation permits from the FWS. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Environmental Assessment (EA) was driven by a U.S. Court of Appeals ruling in the *Hill* case that the introduced exotic Mute Swan was afforded protection under the MBTA. The FWS issued permits to the state of Maryland for the take of Mute Swans, but this action was blocked when the Fund for Animals and individuals sued, contesting the adequacy of the EA; the federal judge issued an injunction blocking the control of Mute Swans and ruled the EA was inadequate. In reviewing the judge's order, the Justice Department and Interior attorneys agreed that all permits for the take of Mute Swans and their eggs would be stopped indefinitely. As a result, **all federal and state actions to control Mute Swan populations in the U.S. have been at a standstill since last summer**. On December 16, 2003, Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R, MD), held a hearing on the MBTA and its application to non-native species. ABC, National Audubon, Wildlife Management

Institute, U.S. FWS, and others testified that the MBTA should be amended to exempt all introduced non-native avian species. **This would simply restore the MBTA to where it was before** the ruling that the Mute Swan was protected. Amending the MBTA would remove at least 86 species of introduced, non-native birds from the MBTA (including the Rock Pigeon). Rep. Gilchrest has drafted a bill to accomplish this change and undo the *Hill* case and thus reverse the blocking of all efforts to manage spiraling populations of the exotic Mute Swan."

MOS President Paul Zucker signed on to ABC's April 2004 letter of support to Rep. Gilchrest, with the following words, "**The Maryland Ornithological Society remains exceedingly concerned about the proliferation of Mute Swans in our region. We enthusiastically support Representative Gilchrest's efforts to restrict the MBTA to native species and, specifically, to exclude the Mute Swan from coverage. Control measures need to be instituted soon before this population becomes larger and constitutes an even greater environmental threat.** Please enter us in support of your letter, and we remain interested in providing further support."

Good news on Horseshoe Crab harvest limits! From the March 10, 2004, meeting minutes of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Horseshoe Crab Management Board: The Board approved an Addendum to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Horseshoe Crab. The Addendum **reduces harvest, implements seasonal closures, and revises the Plan's monitoring requirements.** "Through its actions today, the Board continues to recognize the unique relationship between horseshoe crabs and migratory shorebird populations," stated Board Chair Bruce Freeman of New Jersey. "I want to especially acknowledge the efforts of the States of New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland in taking steps to ensure the integrity of the Delaware Bay ecosystem." The intent is to increase the abundance of horseshoe crab eggs to meet the energy requirements of migratory shorebirds that stop over in Delaware Bay. Specifically, the Addendum caps annual harvest in New Jersey and Delaware at 150,000 crabs/state and sets Maryland's annual quota at its 2001 landings level (170,653 crabs). Further, it requires the three states to prohibit the harvest and landings of horseshoe crab for bait from May 1 to June 7. Addendum III also encourages states with both bait and biomedical fisheries to allow biomedical companies to bleed harvested crabs prior to their use as bait, thus eliminating mortality associated with the process of bleeding and returning crabs to the waters from which they were harvested.

List Report 2003

Once again the big news is at the top levels of the **Maryland Life List** category. Thanks to the MD/DC Records Committee, a whole bunch of folks were finally able to count the Kelp Gull, including list leaders Mark Hoffman, Paul O'Brien, and Jim Stasz. Paul went one step further this past year, adding South Polar Skua on a summer pelagic trip. Not to be outdone, Jim Stasz picked up a Western Wood-Pewee on Assateague Island in the fall, to set up a three-way tie for the lead at 381 species each. Way to go, guys! Who will be the first to 400?

The most improved Maryland life list among the 300-plus group goes to Gary Smyle of Frederick County, with 19 new species, followed by Fred Shaffer of Anne Arundel County with 13 and Matt Hafner of Harford County with 12. Special mention should be made of three of our new submitters this year who instantly jumped into the 300 Club: Hans Holbrook, who reported 333 species in Maryland, Kevin Graff with 324, and Zach Baer. Zach doesn't actually know how many species he has on his Maryland life list but he wanted me to know that he tallied 315 in 2003. Oh, to be young again. . .

Speaking of **2003 Year Lists**, Matt Hafner finally got it all together to break 300 and lead the herd with a tally of 318 species. Zach Baer's 315 and Jim Stasz's 305 in 2003 wrap up the top spots.

Jim Stasz continues to sit high atop the **MD Total Tick** list with his tally of 5,990 species, an average of over 260 species per county. Jim is accompanied at the top by Bob Ringler (5,180) and Marshall Iliff (5,069). Will Jim crash the 6,000 barrier in 2004? Jim took "only" second place, however, on the **Annual Big Tick** as Montgomery County resident John Hubbell racked up 2,426 species and saw 29 species in every county of Maryland during the year. Ouch, those gasoline bills! John also added 33 new species to his MD life list.

Stasz added two closeouts in 2003, raising his **All-County** list to 167. Places two and three continue to be held by Marshall Iliff and Bob Ringler, with 118 and 114 closeouts, respectively.

In the **Maryland Yard List** category, Harry Armistead continues to hold the undisputed lead with 262 species seen on or over his Talbot County farm. Hurricane Isabel contributed his only new species this year, a Sandwich Tern seen September 19. Harry also takes the **2003 Yard List** top spot, with a tally of 160 species, followed by Fran and Norm Saunders with 136 species at their Worcester County yard and by Les Roslund with 129 species in Talbot County. It was almost an Eastern Shore sweep but Rod Burley tallied 128 species at his Prince George's County yard.

In **Garrett County**, Jim Stasz and Marshall Iliff have the lead with 229 and 224 species, respectively. Even though he got married in 2003, J. B. Churchill managed to add 14 new species to his Garrett list as he surged to 219 species. Marshall may have to come back from California to stay out of third place. Stasz tallied 176 species for the year "out West" and J. B. came in second with 166.

(List Report 2003 continues on page 8)

LIST REPORT 2003 *(continued from page 7)*

It is with some sadness that we report the death last year of long-time **Allegany County** list leader Jim Paulus. He will be sorely missed at Western Maryland hawk watches this fall. Ray Kiddy and J. B. Churchill hold the number 2 and 3 spots, just ahead of Jim Stasz (241, 232, and 220, respectively). Ray had 194 species in the county last year, followed closely by J. B.'s 186.

Jim Stasz and Bob Ringler hold top honors in **Washington County**, with third place going to local resident Dave Weesner. Dave Perry of Anne Arundel County tallied 157 species for the year, raising his Washington county tally by 23 species to 176.

In **Frederick County**, the top honors are still held by Paul O'Brien of Montgomery County, with 259 species, but locals Mike Welch (251), Marcia Balestri (246), and Gary Smyle (244) are coming on strong. The best 2003 count was tallied by new reporter Barbara Gearhart, who saw 217 species last year.

Not surprisingly, the top tally for **Carroll County** is held by local resident Bob Ringler, who added 2 new species last year to climb to 272. Dave Harvey and Jim Stasz are a distant 2nd and 3rd, while Ringler tallied 181 species for the year to lead the annual category as well.

Jim Stasz (309 species) is number one in **Baltimore City/County**, with Ringler (303 species) right on his heels. Local Elliot Kirschbaum claimed 193 species in 2003, followed by John Hubbell with 163 sightings and Kevin Graff with 157.

Harford County, with the demise of Rick Blom two years ago, is now led by Dave Webb and Jim Stasz. Dave was out of state for half of last year so he didn't add any new species to his 265, but Stasz added 4 to jump to 258 and also managed the high count for the year with 150 species.

In an exciting change of pace, **Montgomery County** is led by 9 residents (or former residents), with Jim Stasz coming in 10th. As in past years, Paul and Michael O'Brien (290 and 281 species, respectively) lead the pack, with Harvey Mudd (262) and Lola Oberman (256) accounting for the 3rd and 4th spots. High counts for the year were 179 species seen by Dave Powell and 176 tallied by Rod Burley.

In **Howard County**, Jo Solem added 3 new species this past year to retain the number one spot with 276. Bonnie Ott also added 3 new species and, with 265 species, is in second. Jane Coskren (261), Nancy Magnusson (260), and Helen Zeichner (257) are in a hard-fought battle for the number three position. Bonnie tallied 215 species in 2003 to lead in the annual county category, followed by Jo Solem with 211, and newcomer Emy Holdridge, with 206 species.

Jim Stasz, Mark Hoffman, and Marshall Iliff lead the **Anne Arundel County** list with 291, 274, and 267 species, respectively. Rod Burley had the high count for the year, with 211 species, followed by Dave Perry who had 136 species in the county in 2003.

Prince George's County leader Jim Stasz (263) is 1 species ahead of expatriate John Gregoire (262), followed by Fred Shaffer with 254 species. Fourth place is jointly held by Fred Fallon and David Mozurkewich, each with 248 species. High count for the year was (no surprises here) once again nailed by Rod Burley. Did you retire last year, Rod?

Moving to his home county, it's no surprise that Jim Stasz is head and shoulders above other **Calvert County** birders with a total of 297 species. Sue Hamilton and Arlene Ripley have a lock on 2nd place with 243 species each, while John Gregoire and Marshall Iliff hold down the number 4 position with 233 species. Arlene saw 196 species last year to head the annual count, closely followed by Sue Hamilton with 184 and Tyler Bell with 182 species.

Hometown boy George Jett added 6 species to his **Charles County** list to maintain his choke-hold on the top position there with 259, while Jim Stasz and Paul Nistico continue to hold down second and third positions. In-comer Gwen Brewer added 12 species in 2003, making a strong bid to eventually break into the top three. George reported 200 species for 2003, followed by Rod Burley's 151 species.

In **Saint Mary's County**, Kyle Rambo added 5 new species to his list last year to break away from his previous tie for the number one spot with Patty Craig. Kyle now sports 311 species to Patty's 308. A relatively distant third is Tyler Bell with 267 species. Patty saw 242 species in 2003 for top honors in the annual list category, followed by Kyle with 234. This see-saw battle for supremacy has gotten downright exciting!

Moving up to the head of the Chesapeake Bay, we see that Marcia Watson-Whitmyre added 2 species last year to her **Cecil County** list to maintain control of first place with 260 species. Jim Stasz (245) and Leslie Fisher (241) are not so terribly far behind her though. . . watch your back, Marcia! High count for the year goes to Parke John, with 195 species, followed by Marcia's 187.

In **Kent County**, Floyd Parks continues to hold top honors with his tally of 279 species, followed by Jim Stasz with 249 and newcomer upstart Walter Ellison, who added 21 species this year to jump to 244. Walter had the high count for the year—128 species, followed by Jim Stasz who reported 100 for the year.

Jim Stasz remains in charge of **Queen Anne's County** with 261 species. In a surprise move, however, Danny Poet added 13 species to jump into a tie with Marshall Iliff for second place at 228. Hard-charging Matt Hafner added 29 species to his list last year and Dave Perry added 32 new species, enough to hoist them into 4th and 5th positions respectively. Don't get complacent, Danny! High count for the year was 210 species seen by Dave Perry followed by Danny Poet's 192 and Walter Ellison's 151.

Jim Stasz continued to fend off second-place Ethel Engle in **Caroline County** with his total of 242, two more than Ethel. High for the year went to Danny Poet with 130 species.

Henry Armistead continues to hold down first place in **Talbot County** with 264 species, followed by Jim Stasz with 252 and Wayne Bell with 242. Les Roslund tallied 200 species in 2003, followed by Danny Poet with 181 and Wayne Bell with 179. We're going to have to start

calling Danny "Mr. Upper Eastern Shore" if he continues at this rate!

Harry Armistead and Jim Stasz continue to hold down the number one and two spots in **Dorchester County**, Harry with 296 species and Jim with 270. George Armistead, Harry's son, added 7 new species to move from 6th to 3rd place.

In **Wicomico County,** Sam Dyke and Don and Carol Broderick have the top three spots sewn up, both in terms of life lists and annual lists. I guess there is something after all to the value of local information.

Somerset County is dominated by Jim Stasz's 270 species. Sam Dyke holds down second place with 254 species and Marshall Iliff is third with 243.

Finally we come to **Worcester County**, a place so birdy that it could almost be a state all by itself. Mark Hoffman (many call him "Mr. Worcester County" in hushed tones) tallied an American White Pelican here last year to raise his total to a solid 350—not bad in anyone's book! Sam Dyke kept his hold on second place as he added 2 new species and improved his tally to 347. Mark may be "Mr. Worcester County" but if anyone deserves the title "Mr. Lower Eastern Shore" it would have to be Sam. In a stunning move, Jim Stasz added 3 new species and moved ahead of Mike O'Brien into third place with 338 species. Matt Hafner tallied 277 species last year to lead the annual lists, with Jim Stasz at 249 species and Norm Saunders at 218.

In the **District of Columbia**, absentee birder Ottavio Janni still leads the pack with 262 species, but is followed closely by Rob Hilton at 257, who added 2 new species this year, and by Paul Pisano, who added 3 new species to jump to 249. Annual list bragging rights go to Paul, who saw 202 species in D.C. last year, and John Hubbell, who had 180 species.

For the 2004 Annual List Report I'm going to experiment with a few new approaches. First, I'll leave space on the reporting form for you to write down some notes about your most exciting new birds of 2004. For all those who have Maryland Life Lists of 350 or higher, listing your new species will be a requirement. Finally, I intend to add a new category—Number of Species Photographed in Maryland. Dig out those slides and negatives and start tallying now!

I want to thank all of you who participated this year and wish each and every one of you a safe and birdy 2004.

—Norm Saunders, MOS County List Compiler
301-989-9035 • marshhawk@att.net

District of Columbia Big Listers

Rank	Name	Home	Life	2003
1	Ottavio Janni	(Italy)	262	
2	Rob Hilton	Mont	257	178
3	Paul Pisano	(VA)	249	202
4	John Gregoire	(NY)	238	
4	Gail Mackiernan	Mont	238	
6	Barry Cooper	Mont	235	
7	Mary Ann Todd	Mont	232	
8	Byron Swift	DC	228	
9	Michael Bowen	Mont	221	139
10	Lisa Shannon	Mont	219	
11	John Hubbell	Mont	211	180
12	Norm Saunders	Mont	165	
13	Joy Bowen	Mont	158	71

The Maryland "300 Club"

Rank	Name	Home	Life	2003
1	Mark Hoffman	Carr	381	
1	Paul O'Brien	Mont	381	241
1	Jim Stasz	Clvt	381	305
4	Michael O'Brien	(NJ)	371	
5	Paul Pisano	(VA)	368	
6	John Gregoire	(NY)	365	
6	Harvey Mudd	Mont	365	
8	Sam Dyke	Wico	362	
9	Rick Blom	Hrfd	360	
10	George Jett	Chas	358	206
10	Bob Ringler	Carr	358	247
10	Mary Ann Todd	Mont	358	
13	Don Broderick	Wico	354	259
14	Marshall Iliff	AnAr	353	
15	Carol Broderick	Wico	351	259
16	Norm Saunders	Mont	349	229
17	Phil Davis	AnAr	348	
18	Leo Weigant	AnAr	347	254
19	Fran Saunders	Mont	345	216
19	Eddie Slaughter	Balt	345	
21	Matt Hafner	Hrfd	344	318
22	Barry Cooper	Mont	343	
22	Gail Mackiernan	Mont	343	
24	Jane Coskren	Hwrd	342	
24	Ottavio Janni	(Italy)	342	
26	Stan Arnold	AnAr	337	
26	Kyle Rambo	StMa	337	
28	Dave Harvey	Carr	336	
29	Henry Armistead	(PA)	335	226
30	Marion Mudd	Mont	334	
31	Patty Craig	StMa	333	255
31	Hans Holbrook	Hwrd	333	294
33	Jo Solem	Hwrd	331	
34	J.B. Churchill	Algy	330	268
35	Elliot Kirschbaum	Balt	328	215
36	J. Tyler Bell	StMa	327	
37	Kevin Graff	Balt	324	247
38	Dave Perry	AnAr	323	224
39	Rob Hilton	Mont	322	159
39	Steve Sanford	Balt	322	
41	Peter Osenton	AnAr	321	
42	Jane Kostenko	StMa	320	
42	Wade Stephen	PGeo	320	
44	Shirley Geddes	Balt	319	
44	Lola Oberman	Mont	319	
46	Dotty Mumford	AnAr	317	
47	Paul Nistico	Chas	316	174
48	George Armistead	(PA)	315	
48	Zach Baer	QuAn	315	315
48	Fred Shaffer	AnAr	315	254
48	Charlie Vaughn	Wico	315	
52	Al Haury	AnAr	313	
52	Kye Jenkins	Balt	313	
54	Sue Hamilton	Clvt	311	204
54	Nancy Magnusson	Hwrd	311	
54	Floyd Parks	Kent	311	
57	Dennis Kirkwood	Hrfd	310	
57	Dave Powell	Hrfd	310	
57	Gail Vaughn	Wico	310	
60	Amy Hoffman	Carr	309	
61	Rod Burley	PGeo	308	246
62	David Walbeck	AnAr	305	
63	Gary Smyle	Fdrk	304	
64	Gwen Brewer	Chas	303	
65	Marcia Balestri	Fdrk	302	244
65	Michael Welch	Fdrk	302	
67	Frank Schaff	Fdrk	301	

Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report as of March 29, 2004

by Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

The sighting reports below have changed status since the last committee decision summary was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This summary covers MD/DCRC review packages 78 through 89. MD/DCRC report numbers are in brackets. These records and reports will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

MD RECORDS ACCEPTED:

Pacific Loon, *Gavia pacifica* [MD/2001-016]
Ocean City, Worcester County
May 15, 2001-May 25, 2001

Pacific Loon, *Gavia pacifica* [MD/2002-020]
Clopper Lake, Montgomery County
May 29, 2002-October 2, 2002

American White Pelican, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* [MD/2000-051]
Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County
November 29, 2000-December 1, 2000

American White Pelican, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* [MD/2001-010]
Salisbury, Wicomico County
December 29, 2000

White-faced Ibis, *Plegadis chihi* [MD/2000-021]
E.A. Vaughn WMA-North tract, Worcester County
May 25, 2000-May 27, 2000

Ross's Goose, *Chen rossii* [MD/1997-756]
Greenock, Anne Arundel County
November 19, 1997-November 30, 1997

Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula* [MD/2000-012]
Potomac River, Prince George's County
February 4, 2000-February 9, 2000

Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus* [MD/2000-049]
Black Hill Regional Park, Montgomery County
December 1, 2000-February 4, 2001

Barrow's Goldeneye, *Bucephala islandica* [MD/1999-046]
Patuxent NAS, Saint Mary's County
February 27, 1999-March 6, 1999

Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis* [MD/1998-015]
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Prince George's County
June 3, 1987

Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis* [MD/1998-030]
Dameron, Saint Mary's County
May 26, 1998

Long-billed Curlew, *Numenius americanus* [MD/1999-092]
(unknown), Saint Mary's County
September, 1843

Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicaudus* [MD/2000-047]
Atlantic Ocean, Worcester County
September 3, 2000

Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan* [MD/1999-039]
Scotland, Saint Mary's County
April 20, 1996

Little Gull, *Larus minutus* [MD/2001-019]
Sycamore Landing, Montgomery County
April 6, 2001

Little Gull, *Larus minutus* [MD/2001-020]
Seneca, Montgomery County
April 27, 2001

Black-tailed Gull, *Larus crassirostris* [MD/1998-014]
Sandy Point State Park, Anne Arundel County
July 4, 1984-July 7, 1984

California Gull, *Larus californicus* [MD/1999-028]
Conowingo Dam, Harford County
February 6, 1999-February 13, 1999

California Gull, *Larus californicus* [MD/1999-050]
Conowingo Dam, Cecil County/Harford County
February 8, 1999-March 13, 1999

California Gull, *Larus californicus* [MD/2001-080]
Poplar Island, Talbot County
November 26, 2001

Kelp Gull, *Larus dominicanus* [MD/1999-035]
Sandgates, Saint Mary's County/Calvert County
January 25, 1998-(still present)

Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii* [MD/1999-047]
Ocean City, Worcester County
May 26, 1999

Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea* [MD/1999-042]
Violette's Lock, Montgomery County
May 18, 1999

Dovekie, *Alle alle* [MD/2002-024]
Fruitland, Wicomico County
December 9, 1972

Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus* [MD/2001-034]
Hurlock, Dorchester County
October 1, 2001

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus* [MD/2001-032]
Dameron, Saint Mary's County
May 12, 2001

Common Raven, *Corvus corax* [MD/2001-013]
Brighton Dam, Howard County
December 24, 1978

Common Raven, *Corvus corax* [MD/1998-019]
Ft. Smallwood, Anne Arundel County
April 25, 1998

Common Raven, *Corvus corax* [MD/2000-046]
Conowingo Dam, Cecil County/Harford County
October 29, 1998

Bewick's Wren, *Thryomanes bewickii* [MD/1999-215]
Patuxent Research Refuge,
Prince George's County
April 8, 1944

Northern Shrike, *Lanius excubitor* [MD/2000-034]
Mountain Lake Park, Garrett County
December 18, 1999-December 19, 1999

Painted Bunting, *Passerina ciris* [MD/2002-036]
Havre de Grace, Harford County
March 1, 2002-April 8, 2002

Green-tailed Towhee, *Pipilo chlorurus* [MD/2001-001]
North Branch, Allegany County
January 1, 2001

Henslow's Sparrow, *Ammodramus henslowii* [MD/2001-038]
Greenfield Road, Frederick County
May 21, 1983

Henslow's Sparrow, *Ammodramus henslowii* [MD/1999-041]
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Harford County
June 27, 1999-July 30, 1999

Le Conte's Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii* [MD/2000-004]
Irish Grove, Somerset County
December 4, 1999-December 27, 1999

Le Conte's Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii* [MD/2001-008]
Beltsville Ag Research Center,
Prince George's County
February 15, 2001-March 13, 2001

Harris's Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula* [MD/2001-076]
Point Lookout State Park, Saint Mary's County
November 20, 2001-November 26, 2001

MD RECORDS ACCEPTED-FORM:

"Common" Teal, *Anas crecca crecca* [MD/1999-048]
Blackwater NWR, Dorchester County
March 30, 1999-April 3, 1999

"Common" Teal, *Anas crecca crecca* [MD/2001-004]
EA Vaughn WMA, Worcester County
December 20, 2000

"Audubon's" Warbler, *Dendroica coronata auduboni* [MD/2000-002]
EA Vaughn WMA, Worcester County
December 29, 1999

"Gambel's" Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii* [MD/1999-203]
Kingstown, Queen Anne's County
March 5, 1999-April 25, 1999

"Gambel's" Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii* [MD/2000-016]
Dameron, Saint Mary's County
October 14, 1999-October 18, 1999

"Gambel's" Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii* [MD/2001-036]
Chino Farms, Queen Anne's County
May 6, 2001

"Gambel's" Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii* [MD/2002-041]
Eastern Neck NWR, Kent County
October 13, 2002

MD RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED:

Yellow-billed Loon, *Gavia adamsii* [MD/1999-200]
Sandgates, Saint Mary's County
November 3, 1999-November 5, 1999

Yellow-nosed Albatross, *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* [MD/2000-024]
Assateague National Seashore, Worcester County
May 11, 2000

Whooper Swan, *Cygnus cygnus* [MD/2001-009]
Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County
January 9, 2001-March 23, 2001

Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni* [MD/1998-016]
Black Hill Regional Park, Montgomery County
December 14, 1997

Yellow-legged Gull, *Larus cachinnans* [MD/1997-286]
Alpha Ridge Landfill, Howard County
February 11, 1995-February 11, 1995

Bullock's Oriole, *Icterus bullockii* [MD/1997-752]
Parsonsburg, Wicomico County
December 4, 1988

DC RECORDS ACCEPTED:

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana* [DC/1999-070]
Washington Monument
July 2, 1892

Greater White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons* [DC/2001-002]
East Potomac Park
January 6, 2001-February 4, 2001

Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula* [DC/2000-011]
Potomac River
January 29, 2000-February 22, 2000

California Gull, *Larus californicus* [DC/2000-013]
Tidal Basin
January 16, 1999

White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica* [DC/1999-031]
Georgetown
October 30, 1998

DC RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED:

Parasitic Jaeger, *Stercorarius parasiticus* [DC/1997-157]
Constitution Gardens
May 28, 1994

Little Gull, *Larus minutus* [DC/1997-096]
Hains Point
April 3, 1993

SOS: Support Our Sanctuaries

by Dotty Mumford

The Society's nine sanctuaries, from Garrett Co in the west to Somerset in the south, are brimming with work projects—far more than can be accomplished at annual workdays or by the nine members of the Sanctuary Committee.

Sanctuary projects vary greatly in size and scope. Some are one-time efforts that can be accomplished in a day. Some are annual in nature, requiring one or more days each year. Yet others will take several days each year over a period of years. Some of the projects can be carried out by volunteers, while others will require the help of professionals. (Fortunately, with the creation of the new Sanctuary Fund, we do have some monies to hire professionals.)

In an effort to get more people involved, we are making an appeal to all MOS members and Chapters to lend a helping hand. Each project needs a Captain to oversee it, plus volunteers to work with the Captain.

Please help us by selecting one of the projects listed below. Some projects already have a Captain. If the project you select already lists a Captain, please contact that person directly. Otherwise, contact me (Dotty Mumford at 410-849-8336, or Dottymum@comcast.net). Also, please consider signing on as a Project Captain—the project won't get done without one!

Mill Creek Sanctuary

(Talbot Co)

*Trail maintenance and trash pick-up. Captain: Jan Reese (410-745-2875)

Myrtle Simon Pelot Sanctuary

(Caroline Co)

*Trail maintenance and trash pick-up. Captain: Bill Scudder (410-479-3590)

Carey Run Sanctuary

(Garrett Co) *(work to be done April through September)*

*Remove and replace all gutters, downspouts, and some fascia boards. Captain: Doug Parker (301-663-1909, or Parkernkda@aol.com)

*Paint interior and exterior of bathroom/shower complex. Captain: Barbara Gaffney (301-895-4646, or gaffneyg@mindspring.com)

*Replace wood stove and floor fireproofing in living room.

*Replace gravel on entry road. Captain: Doug Parker (301-663-1909, or Parkernkda@aol.com) *(work to be done summer of 2004, some by professionals)*

*Big Field Project: With professional help, remove rows of Autumn Olive and restore to open field, eliminating invasive species. *(This is a big project that will need to be done in stages over several years.)*

Irish Grove Sanctuary

(Somerset Co) *(work should be done fall through spring; summers are buggy)*

*Remove island of shrubs and restore field. Captain: Paul Bystrak (410-572-9950, or paul@bystrak.com) *(several days over two years)*

*Trail maintenance. Pruning on "dry" trails, checking stakes and plank bridges along marsh trails *(done annually)*

*Remove Cedar tree next to the house. Captain: Paul Bystrak (410-572-9950, or paul@bystrak.com) *(1-2 days)*

*Maintain field edges. Trim back vegetation to allow tractor to mow edges. Captain: Paul Bystrak (410-572-9950, or paul@bystrak.com) *(2-3 days a year)*

*Replace screening for dining area of the pole barn. *Need several people for a weekend project.*

*Build and install nesting structures for ospreys, owls, ducks. *(several days for construction and installation; thereafter annual maintenance and monitoring)*

*Interior house maintenance. Painting, minor repairs, upgrading equipment, and cleaning. Captain: Dotty Mumford, 410-849-8336, or Dottymum@comcast.net *(2- to 4-day work sessions at least once a year. Volunteers can sign up for 1, 2, 3, or all 4 days. Can be done in summer.)*

*Upgrade Rail Trail. We would like to make Rail Trail the showcase trail of Irish Grove. It needs to have the footing made level and dry. *(This is a big project needing a good number of strong workers willing to participate in several work sessions over several years.)*

All Sanctuaries: The above, plus

Adventure (Montgomery)
Seymour B. Cooper (Frederick)
Mandares Creek (Anne Arundel)
Marengo Woods (Talbot)
Caroline W. Wilson (Garrett)

*Put up MOS sanctuary signs along the property lines. Captain: Bob Rineer (410-341-8499, or rineer@jhmi, edu)

Maryland Ornithological Society 2004 Scholarship Winners

Catherine Stragar
School Programs Naturalist, Audubon Naturalist Society, Montgomery County
Maine Field Ornithology/Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship (administered by ANS)

Susan Ahlfeld
Research Assistant and Recreation Assistant, Patuxent Research Refuge, Prince George's County
Maine Field Ornithology/Chandler Robbins Scholarship

Wende Pearson
Environmental Educator, Hard Bargain Farm, Prince George's County
Maine Field Ornithology/Eleanor Robbins Scholarship

Dan Albro
Environmental Educator, Jean Ellen duPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary, Talbot County
Maine Field Ornithology/ Helen Miller Memorial Scholarship

Melissa Boyle
Naturalist, Bear Branch Nature Center, Carroll County
Maine Field Ornithology/Helen Miller Memorial Scholarship

Adam Smith
Park Ranger, Downs Park, Anne Arundel County
Maine Field Ornithology/Helen Miller Memorial Scholarship

John Dent
Park Naturalist, Tuckahoe and Martinek State Parks, Caroline County
Maine Field Ornithology/Dan and Helen Gibson and Dorothy Mendinhall Memorial Scholarship (sponsored by Kent County)

Chris Ordiway
Naturalist, Point Lookout State Park, St. Mary's County
Maine Field Ornithology/Doris Oakley Memorial Scholarship

Carrie Samis
Education Curator, Salisbury Zoo, Wicomico County
Maine Field Ornithology/Doris Oakley Memorial Scholarship

Elisha Taylor
Naturalist Intern/Summer Camp Counselor, Irvine Nature Center, Baltimore
Natural History of the Maine Coast (coastal ecology)/Frances Covington-Etta Wedge Memorial Scholarship

Colleen Webster
Associate Professor of English, Harford Community College, Harford County
Natural History of the Maine Coast (coastal ecology)/John Wortman Memorial Scholarship

Summer Bird Camps for Young People

by Jean Fry

In the interest of encouraging young people to get involved in birding, here are some summer camp offerings around the country:

Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens

Ages 14-17. Hog Island, Maine. June 27-July 3. Contact Maine Audubon at 1-888-325-5261 or camps@maineaudubon.org. Website: www.maineaudubon.org. Cost: $960.

Youth Camp

Ages 10-14. High Pond Audubon Camp, Vermont. July 8-18 or July 22-August 1. Contact Vermont Audubon at 1-877-753-2165 or www.vt.audubon.org. Cost $885. Vermont Audubon also offers a program of **Audubon Research for Teens**, ages 14-18, with one area of specialization being ornithology.

Youth Ecology Adventure

Ages 9-13. Hunt Hill Audubon Camp, Wisconsin. July 18-23. Contact Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary at 1-715-635-6543 or hunthill@spacestar.net. Cost: $365.

ABA's Third Young Birders' Conference

Ages 13-18. Kern River Valley, California. June 26-30. Contact Jennie Duberstein at BEView@aba.org or Lori Fujimoto at lfujimoto@aba.org. Cost: $495.

Don't Forget, Your Trash Could Be Treasure

Janelle Dietrich, long-time chair of the MOS Annual Conference Silent Auction says, "I LOVED the job. The people were wonderful and the gifts 'someone else's treasures.' I will miss my best customer—Eleanor Robbins—who always bought lots of treasures. I loved visiting with the donors and hearing the stories that went with each donation. Last year was the most ever made in the silent auction and raffle—a combined $3,000. Everyone worked hard. I am now passing my hat to Maryanne Dolan, who will do an even better job. She is enthusiastic and willing. It will be nice to go back on the field trips again! I will miss saying 'Pencils down' at the end of the auction and even the 'blue light specials.' Maryanne reminds you this is a perfect opportunity to donate your faded stars to a great cause. Email her at ABTrowbridge@msn.com.

Harford Honors Outstanding Birds and Members

Jean Wheeler, President, reports that the Harford County Bird Club held its annual awards ceremony at the March 5 meeting. (There were two Rookies of the Year.)

Rookie of the Year—Colleen Webster. Colleen is an Associate Professor of English at Harford Community College who has an enthusiasm for the natural world and a wonderful ability to write about it. She has developed a passion for identifying birds and learning about their habits and life cycles.

Rookie of the Year—Mike Burchett. Mike began birding in 2002 while taking a high school biology course. In his first year of birding he listed over 250 birds and spotted a Yellow-headed Blackbird on his first Christmas Bird Count. He believes that bird started a fascination with birds that has turned into an obsession.

Volunteer of the Year—Phil Powers. Phil, a member since 1996, has given countless hours of service to the club, leading field trips, assisting with banding at Harford Glen, and introducing local students to the wonder of birds. He also assists with bird trips at Anita Leight Estuary Center.

Bird of the Year—to Swan Harbor Farms for a pair of nesting Pied-billed Grebes. This was the first record in the county and the Farms' habitat preservation made it possible.

Lifetime Service Award—to Jean and Larry Fry, with grateful appreciation for their outstanding service and dedication to the club over many years, as officers, trip leaders, teachers, and friends. The Frys joined the club in 1979. They will be moving to the shore later this year. We will miss them.

Cecil Welcomes a Starling

Liv Woodland Starling, daughter of members Chris and Crystal Starling, was born February 7, 2004. As Liv's grandparents, Jim and Babs Waters, are new MOS members, the Cecil Bird Club now boasts of a three-generation line. Can any other chapter match this? Chris swears that at age one hour or so, Liv scored her first life bird while he held her at the delivery room window overlooking the hospital campus in Delaware and a Merlin swooped by! Back home on February 11, Chris himself notched a Merlin for his yard list. Liv is destined to be a bird lover and her middle name, Woodland, a family name, seems very appropriate.

Carroll Birders Lose a Camera and Gain Life Birds

In January, Dave and Maureen Harvey participated in an 18-day Field Guides "Jewels of the Andes" tour in Ecuador. They saw about 60 hummers, 60 tanagers, and five ANTPITTAS(!) for a total of around 430 species. Dave was happy with his No. 1 target bird (Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe) at Papalacta Pass (14,000 ft). Maureen reports wonderful looks at her No. 1 target bird—Swallow-tailed Nightjar (unbelievable tail!). It was a great trip, with good rapport among birders and leaders and good weather (which meant fewer birds, according to the leaders). They spent quite a bit of time at higher elevations (9,000-14,000 ft). Unfortunately, when Dave reached to assist a fellow birder who stumbled at the cliff edge, his year-old camera (with just four rolls shot on this trip) slipped off his arm and fell down the slope into a stream below.

County Honors Howard Bird Club Member

Susan Buswell was inducted into the Howard County Women's Hall of Fame on March 11. Susan was honored for civic and community participation as a member of the Howard County Board of Education from 1973-82. She was also a State Delegate for 13-B, representing parts of Howard and Prince George's Counties from 1983-89. When asked about her reaction to the ceremony, Susan, a true birder, responded, "I was (just) in Nebraska watching Sandhill Cranes. What a joy! I guess this would rank right up there with a trip to the Galapagos as an incredible birding experience. We were able to observe the pre-dawn roosting and departure to the fields and the evening fly-in for roosting on the river."

What's New in Allegany

Barbara Gaffney reports that Charlotte Folk, her daughter Nancy, and neighbor Anna Michael took a three-day birding jaunt to Florida in mid-March. Charlotte managed to corral 60 species for the trip and snagged 4 life birds: Limpkin, white phase of Reddish Egret, Ringed Turtle-Dove, and Common Ground-Dove (no mention of a Partridge in a pear tree). They visited Ding Darling, Corkscrew Swamp, and the Everglades.

On March 21 Doug and Nancy Parker and George and Barbara Gaffney checked out the situation at the MOS Carey Run Sanctuary and discovered a virtual river cascading across the lane by Folk field. The Big Spring Thaw is in full swing, and hopefully things will be dried out by May 1 in time for the Carey Run work day.

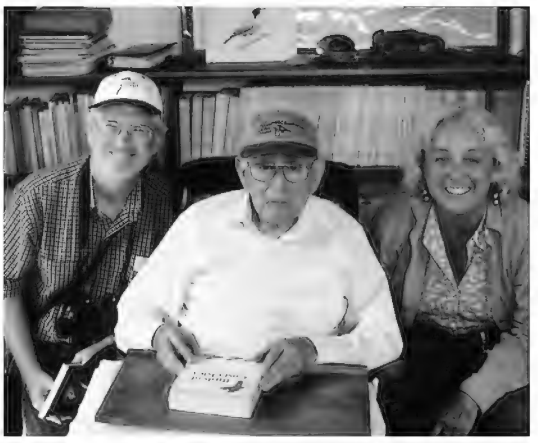
Caroline Bird Walks Introduce Young People to Birding

Danny Poet reports that the March 13 kids' birdwalk at the lake area and woods trail of Tuckahoe State Park was led by Johnny Dent, Naturalist of both Tuckahoe and Martinak State Parks and by Danny. "The morning was sunny, windy, chilly, but fun. We had a small but interested group of kids and their parents. Not many songbirds out, but some of the highlights were American Wigeons, pintails, Canada and Snow Geese, coots, Cooper's Hawk, and two Bald Eagles hanging around the lake. We also saw early signs of skunk cabbage along the woods trail. The kids were thrilled to see the Bald Eagles. The young birders were Rob Simmons, Ashlyn and Katelyn Dadds, and Andrea and Jessica Folker."

Warning: Don't Get Too Involved in Reading Birding Magazines

Keith Costley of the Baltimore Bird Club commutes on the subway to the Inner Harbor East area. On good days he is able to bird in nearby parks during his lunch break, so he carries binoculars, field guide, and several birding-related documents in his backpack on the commute. On a recent evening, Keith sat on the platform at Shot Tower Marketplace reading a birding magazine while he waited for the train. He continued to read as he boarded and didn't look up until he reached his stop, the Old Court Station. He then realized he didn't have his backpack. The attendant called Shot Tower for him, but no one had turned in a green knapsack. Keith decided to ride back and check out the area. Then, at Charles Station the conductor announced that the train could go no further. Concerned, Keith asked the attendant to call Shot Tower again. A transit policeman nearby heard the story and said to another policeman, "This guy says the bag is his." The alert officer rushed Keith in a squad car with lights flashing to Shot Tower, where the Bomb Squad had been called out for a suspicious package on the platform. They couldn't call ahead because radio silence is part of the drill in dealing with explosives. The station had been evacuated and locked down. Rush hour commuters were stranded. Police swarmed around Shot Tower and a helicopter circled overhead. The Bomb Squad had finished and left. A chastened birder claimed his backpack and caught the first train home.

Howard Birders Meet Dr. Skutch, the "Grand Old Man"



On a recent visit to Costa Rica, Jane and Dennis Coskren met Dr. Alexander Skutch at his farm, Los Cusingos. Dr. Skutch, the Grand Old Man of neotropical ornithology, was born in Baltimore in 1904 and traveled to Panama in 1928, where he fell in love with the tropics. He moved to Costa Rica in 1935 and purchased a farm near San Isidro de El General in 1941. He has written many books and articles, the best-known of which is the birding bible of Central America, *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica* (coauthored in 1989). Jane and Dennis hadn't planned to visit Dr. Skutch, although they had been told that he welcomed birders at his home; however, when they stayed at a small lodge just outside San Isidro, the resident bird guide told them that the best birding in the area was at Los Cusingos, as most of the rain forest in the area has been replaced with crops and pasture. They seized the opportunity.

Dr. Skutch met them in his wheelchair. At 99 he was quite frail and acutely deaf, although his mind is sound (he is still writing and publishing). Having been born in Baltimore, he was interested to learn that Jane was heading the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas Project, and Jane gave him an Atlas cap. The birding was pretty good on the farm, as advertised. A few of the exotic species were Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Baird's Trogon, Rufous Piha, and White-whiskered Puffbird—but they found it almost as pleasing to see old friends in a new setting: for example, Swainson's Thrush, Philadelphia Vireo, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

A Tale of Two Birding Clubs

BY FRED FALLON

In Prince George's (PG) County, two birding/conservation clubs took root independently—the Patuxent chapter of MOS and the PG chapter of the National Audubon Society (PGAS), founded, respectively, in 1946 and 1972. These two organizations reached their heydays in the 1970s and 1980s, with meeting attendance in the dozens and a varied offering of field trips. But by 2000, a gradual dispersal of birders from PG County and a generally aging membership had left both clubs competing for speakers and drawing on the same set of people for leadership. Field trips dwindled away and attendance at meetings had dropped into the single digits. With the hope of reviving both organizations, the two chapters agreed to hold their monthly meetings and field trips jointly, starting with the 2001/2002 season. The meeting day was retained as PG Audubon's, the meeting time as Patuxent's. Both memberships compromised on a new meeting place, convenient to both. Coordination was eased by the president of the MOS chapter sitting on the PGAS board for the first two years, while a single field trip chair coordinates field trips. At meetings, the respective presidents preside in alternate months.

Now, attendance at meetings has soared—sometimes exceeding 60; a lively atmosphere prevails; and a full schedule of field trips is once more available to members. To be sure, the two clubs are distinct, with different emphases. Each retains its separate board and governance, and each maintains its separate ties to its respective parent organization. Still, what started as an experiment three years ago has worked out very well and quite possibly saved both chapters from extinction.

Minutes, MOS Board Meeting
December 13, 2003

President: Paul Zucker
Vice President: Janet Millenson
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Secretary: Janet Shields

Atlas: Jane Coskren
Conference: Janet Shields
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Nominations: Al Haury
Publications/Yellowthroat: Lydia Schindler

Allegany: *not represented;* **Anne Arundel:** Linda Baker, Al Haury, Dotty Mumford; **Baltimore:** Jeanne Bowman, Helene Gardel, John Landers; **Caroline:** Danny Poet; **Carroll:** Maureen Harvey; **Cecil:** *not represented;* **Frederick:** Marcia Balestri; **Harford:** Thomas Congersky; **Howard:** Jane Coskren, Kurt Schwarz, Martha Waugh; **Kent:** Walter Ellison, Peter Mann, Nancy Martin; **Montgomery:** Sam Freiberg, Hugh Mahanes, Lydia Schindler, Don Simonson; **Patuxent:** Chan Robbins, Fred Shaffer; **Talbot:** Shirley Bailey; **Tri-County:** Elizabeth Pitney; **Washington:** Janet Shields

President Paul Zucker called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. and thanked the Kent County Chapter for hosting the meeting at Eastern Neck NWR, Rock Hall, MD.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with a minor correction.

Treasurer's Report: The audit is in the final stages. Shiras has a draft report and should have a final report by Christmas.

President's Remarks: Paul attended an American Bird Conservancy policy meeting in November. He also attended the Audubon Naturalist Society meeting and presented them with $1,500 for their youth program, their portion of the proceeds from the 2003 Conference's raffle/silent auction. Jean Fry, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, is stepping down and a replacement is needed.

Review of Action Items:
1. Locations have been found for the December, March, and June board meetings.
2. Candidates are needed for chairs of Conference, Scholarship, and Sanctuary Committees and Environmental Fund of Maryland liaison.
3. Fall Count will be addressed at this meeting.
4. The Bylaws and Long-range Planning Committee will present proposed changes to the Bylaws and Manual of Operations at the March meeting.
5. Janet Millenson is overseeing the organization of the new online MOS discussion board.
6. Arrangements are being made to send the *Birdlife* archive CDs to libraries in Maryland.
7. End-of-year reports should be submitted to Paul Zucker.
8. Chapters have until January 31, 2004, to have qualified applicants submit applications for summer 2004 scholarship grants.
9. Chapter presidents have asked members to submit designs for 2004 conference pin contest.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conference: Janet Shields reported that Clay and Pat Sutton would be coming to the conference. Clay, as the keynote speaker, will talk about "How to Spot an Owl." Pat will give a butterfly workshop on Saturday morning. The Suttons will lead a butterfly field trip after the workshop. Howard and Montgomery volunteers from last year are returning to help with the Chestertown conference.
Conservation: Maureen Harvey gave an update on conservation issues to the board. A summary of this appears in the *Yellowthroat.*
Investment: Martha Waugh announced that her committee will have a vacancy in the near future. Larry Fry, a valued contributor, is retiring to the Eastern Shore. As always, a report was handed out to the board on MOS investments.
Nominations: Al Haury is seeking candidates for MOS Board Vice President and Treasurer. Interested people should contact him or Paul Zucker.
Publications/Yellowthroat: Lydia Schindler informed the board that Sue Probst, Howard Co., is doing a facelift of the *Yellowthroat*. Lydia's goal is to make it more interactive with our members. She would like feedback on ways to make the *Yellowthroat* informative about Maryland birds and good reading for the members.
Atlas: Jane Coskren announced that the Baltimore Chapter donated $500 and Kent donated $250 to the *Atlas*; this $750 and any other chapter donations for this year up to a total of $1,000 will be matched by the Howard Chapter. We have received a State grant of $40,000 which must be matched by MOS volunteer hours. Maryland Costal Bays donated $5,000 this year and will give $3,000 next year. *Bird Watcher's Digest* notified Paul Zucker that the first annual Eirik Blom Memorial Fund award would go to MOS for the *Breeding Bird Atlas* project. Walter Ellison has data for 964 blocks out of 1,295 for a total of 74%. There is no data for 330 blocks. Help is especially needed in Garrett and Washington Counties. Marcia Balestri is helping to coordinate a big sit at Lilypons for the Frederick Chapter to raise money for the *Atlas*. Marcia would like to see other chapters participate.

Fall Count Scheduling: The Board considered three options: (1) pick an official date; (2) give chapters the choice of holding the count on either Saturday or Sunday; or (3) make it a weekend count with each chapter doing both days. The board voted for a one-day count on either Saturday or Sunday of the third week in September; each chapter may choose whatever day they prefer.

Electronic Discussion System: Janet Millenson summarized her findings on the best way to organize and moderate an MOS discussion system. It will have public and private areas. The public areas, available to all MOS members, will disseminate information and provide a forum for member questions. Private areas will allow registered users to conduct MOS business and will be used by committees and the executive board. A monitor to administer the system will be needed. Peter Mann volunteered to act as monitor. Paul Zucker directed that the software should be purchased and trial runs started with Peter acting as temporary monitor.

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS
Remuneration for Chapter Speakers: The question was raised asking how individual chapters compensated speakers for talks given at chapter meetings. The answers varied. Some chapters do not pay speakers but may pay transportation costs or give the speaker dinner. Other chapters pay $50. Occasionally a chapter will pay more for a well-known speaker.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
World Series of Birding: Don Simonson announced that the Holy Order of Loggerhead Shrikes, our MOS sponsored WSB team, has begun to gather pledges. They have already started scouting for the 21st annual World Series of Birding.

NEW ACTION ITEMS
Chapter presidents and board members are asked to help find people to fill the following positions:
- Chair of Scholarship Committee (contact Paul Zucker)
- EFM representative (contact Paul Zucker)
- Member of Investment Committee (contact Martha Waugh)
- Vice President and Treasurer (contact Al Haury)
- Poster presenters for annual conference (contact Gwen Brewer)
- Atlasers for available blocks (contact Walter Ellison)

Note these information requests:
- Scholarship applications are due by January 31, 2004.
- Contact Marcia Balestri about *Atlas* support and fundraising events planned for April 24.
- Send content suggestions to *Yellowthroat* editor Lydia Schindler; also add her to chapter newsletter mailing lists.
- Al Haury is revising the Speakers List and would like input from chapters.

President Paul Zucker adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Janet Shields, Secretary

How to Confirm Nesting Chimney Swifts

We see lots of Chimney Swifts in the air, but few swifts have been reported as more than possible nesters to the *Breeding Bird Atlas*. People ask: How do you locate nesting Chimney Swifts?

- Homeowners hear the sounds of swifts in the chimney.
- Early May: Two or three swifts flying with wings held high in a "V" shape is a sign of courtship (Atlas code "C").
- Early May: A swift in flight breaking off a twig with its feet and carrying the twig away is a sign of nest-building (Atlas code "NB").
- May-July: A swift or two entering or exits a chimney *during the day* means that it is building a nest or caring for nestlings (Atlas codes "NB" and "ON").

This last sign is the easiest to see. A daytime entry connotes an active nest. Except for nesting season, Chimney Swifts spend all day in the air and enter a chimney only at dusk, to roost for the night.

Chimney Swifts put just one nest in a chimney and have just one brood a year. Young are fed at half-hour to one hour intervals, with the less frequent hourly feedings after days 15 to 20. With each adult entry, one nestling is fed. So to feed 4-5 young in an hour involves at least 4-5 trips per hour early in the nestling stage. Both adults feed nestlings. Some nests have a helper, so that 3 (or even sometimes 4) adults may share duties.

This farmhouse does NOT have a nesting chimney, but a communal roost. A nesting chimney has one nest, one set of parents. One bird at a time flies in and out, throughout the day.

Parent swifts do not feed young outdoors. Once out of the chimney, young Chimney Swifts immediately feed themselves. Until they are strong enough to stay aloft all day long, fledglings return to their home chimney periodically during the day, especially during the first week. Fledglings roost with their parents at night the first two weeks. Then the family group may break up.

(Chimney Swifts continues on page 18)

CHIMNEY SWIFTS *(continued from page 17)*

When flying with parents, young swifts can be distinguished by the condition of wing feathers. Parents show signs of flight feather molt such as gaps in the wings. The offspring have fresh juvenile primaries and secondaries.

Once nesting is over, where do Chimney Swifts go? Perhaps post-breeding flocks begin to gather and use communal roost sites as early as mid-July. Stan Arnold of Anne Arundel County reported seeing 40-50 swifts enter the Catonsville High School chimney at dusk in mid-July, 2003, so maybe that is a post-nesting roost. This could also be a group of failed nesters or non-breeding birds. In the Amazon Basin where they overwinter, Chimney Swifts gather into communal night-time roosts, usually in hollow trees.

As to timing:

- Chimney Swifts arrive in the Baltimore area starting April 15.
- Courtship may begin about 2 weeks later, starting in early May.
- Courtship can last 2-3 weeks into late May.
- From the first egg laid until the young fledge may take 60-65 days. Thus, juveniles fledge starting in early- to mid-July.

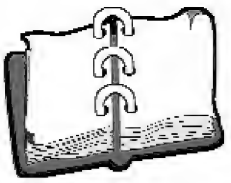
Your help is invited:

Nesting: If you know of a Maryland chimney where one or more swifts has been in and out during the day, May-July, report this to your local *Breeding Bird Atlas* coordinator. Send the exact address with zip code, if possible. Ask that this be forwarded to the person who has that Atlas block.

Post-Nesting: From mid-July to mid-August, if you see dozens of Chimney Swifts going into a single chimney at dusk, let me know. Any observations are welcomed.

—Carol Schreter, Baltimore Bird Club
410-664-5151 • Cschreter@aol.com

Sources:
Chimney Swifts and Their Relatives by Margaret Whittemore, published 1981 by Nature Books Publishers, Jackson, MS.
"Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)" by C. L. Cink & C. T. Collins. In *The Birds of North America, No. 646* (A. Poole & F. Gill, eds.), 2002. The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.



MOS Calendar
May-August 2004

Saturday, May 1

Frederick. Nassawango canoe trip. Gary Smyle is organizing trip to this wonderful Nature Conservancy area. Great for warblers and other spring migrants. Cost $40 for canoe rental. Meet 6 AM Urbana P&R South. Call Gary, 301-663-005, reservations required.

WORK DAY. **Allegany**. Carey Run Sanctuary. NOTE! THIS IS CHANGE OF DATE FROM 4/24! 8 AM until ? Bring picks and shovels (actually cleaning supplies and yard tools like rakes, shovels and chainsaws will be useful) to Carey Run Sanctuary in Finzel. Bring place setting and covered dish to share for lunch. Beverages supplied. Contact Barbara Gaffney, 301-895-4646, for more info and directions.

Baltimore. 8 AM. Cromwell Valley Park. Diverse habitat includes stream, woods, and fields. Expect to see variety of resident and migrant birds. Leader: Jim Meyers, 410-665-2440.

Baltimore. 8 AM. Marriotsville warblers. Resident warblers and songbirds on trail along Patapsco River below Liberty Dam. Barred Owl and Yellow-throated Warbler possible. For detailed directions, contact leader: Paul Noel, 410-243-2652.

Anne Arundel. Canoe trip on Pocomoke River for Prothonotary and other warblers. Meet Bay 50 Shopping Ctr. Leader: Larry Zoller, 410-757-0112.

Cecil. "Seasons at Fair Hill–Spring." Half day. Meet 7 AM Fair Hill Nature Ctr (covered bridge parking lot, fee required). Leader: Richard Donham, 610-932-0634.

Patuxent. Walk at Patuxent WRC, led by Chan Robbins (this replaces regularly scheduled walk at FUNA). Meet 7:30 AM at main gate on Rte 197, end of Powder Mill Rd. For info call Fred Fallon, 301-249-1518, for reservations (required).

Harford. Tucquan Glen Nature Preserve. Naturalist Russ Kovach will guide you through this lush Eden, considered the premier natural area in Lancaster Co, PA, along scenic creek so clear PA has designated it a wild and scenic river. Plant enthusiasts will enjoy woodland wildflowers and some of nearly 2 dozen species of indigenous ferns. Birders will likely spot Blue-headed Vireo, Northern Parula, and Black-throated Green Warbler. Meet 7 AM at Conowingo Visitors Ctr (north side Rte 1). Contact Russ, 443-386-4784, for more info.

Sunday, May 2

Frederick. Warbler watch at Marcia Balestri's house. Twenty-eight species of warblers have migrated through her yard over last 10 years! Meet 7:30 AM at her house. For directions, contact Marcia, 301-473-5098.

Baltimore. 8 AM. Ft. Smallwood. Bring lawn chair, cooler, sun block for armchair birding as hawks fly over. Admission fee for park. To find out if trip is going, call Peter Lev, 410-823-2962.

Baltimore. 8:30 AM. Cylburn Mansion self-guided walk. Series of spring walks. Join Baltimore Bird Club members at Mansion's front porch Sunday mornings for easy birding in gardens and urban forest. Expect to find variety of migrant and local birds. Beginning birders welcome. No designated leader. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834.

Anne Arundel. Millington WMA (Kent County) for migrants. Meet 7 AM Bay 50 Shopping Ctr for half day. Leader: David Walbeck, 410-757-0112.

Talbot. Sunday morning walk. Adkins Arboretum Beginners' Walk. Please bring along a new birder of any age. Come and meet members of award-winning Junior World Series of Birding Team from Centreville Middle School, prior to their participation in this year's competition in Cape May, NJ. No breakfast. Depart 7 AM Tred Avon Shopping Ctr parking lot, front of Acme, Easton. Leaders: Sylvan Kaufman and Wayne Bell. For more info: Wayne, 410-820-6002.

indicates **Field Trips**

Harford. Swan Harbor Farms. This peninsular park is situated so well along upper bay as to keep birders guessing what they'll find next in the shallow impoundments, flooded ag fields, and brushy hedgerows. Highlights likely to include Blue-winged Teal, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, and Savannah Sparrow. Meet Park HQ, end of entrance road, 7 AM. Contact Dave Ziolkowski, djziolkowski@yahoo.com, for more details.

Monday, May 3

Washington. Warm up for May Count. Looking for spring warblers at Sidling Hill. Meet 6 AM Rte 65 P&R below MVA. Leader Dave Weesner, 301-432-7718.

Tuesday, May 4

Baltimore. 8 AM. Cromwell Valley Park. Series of weekly walks to follow progress of migration. Two/three hours and miles of walking. Early departure optional. Spring migrant songbirds. Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night-Herons possible. Drive down long entrance driveway, cross stream, park in lot on left near info kiosk. For more detailed directions, contact leader: Matilda Weiss, 410-337-2732.

MEETING. **Baltimore**. 7:30 PM. Tuesday evenings at Sherwood. "Conservation, Coffee and Migratory Birds" by *Russell Greenberg*.

MEETING. **Carroll**. Program TBA. 7:30 PM at Senior Ctr, Stoner Ave, Westminster. For more info contact Laura Tarbell, 410-857-1109.

Wednesday, May 5

Baltimore. 9:30 AM–Noon. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Meet at Visitor Ctr. Canceled in bad weather (high wind, fog, rain, snow). Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

Montgomery. Flag Ponds, Calvert County. Two-thirds day. Local expert Arlene Ripley leads us through woods, bog and beach of limited-access nature park to seek out migrants as well as arriving breeders, notably Yellow-throated Warbler, such spring flora as Showy Orchis. Limit 12. Reservations required. Contact MOS coordinators for details: Lydia Schindler, 301-977-5252, or Linda Friedland, 301-983-2136.

Thursday, May 6

MEETING. **Frederick**. *Wilbur Hershberger* will present "Warbler Tips and Tricks" to help identify migrating and resident warblers. Meet C. Burr Artz Library downtown Frederick 7 PM. Contact Marcia Balestri, 301-473-5098.

Friday, May 7

MEETING. **Anne Arundel**. 8 PM. DNR Conference Rm, Tawes Bldg, Annapolis. *Dr. James Kushlan*, "Herons of the World and their Conservation." Hosts: Lynn Kenny & Fred & Jane Fallon.

MEETING. **Harford**. *Pete Webb* presents "Identifying Spring Warblers by Sight and Song." Dinner 6:15 PM, program 7 PM. Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. For info and/or dinner reservations call Jean Wheeler, 410-879-7424.

Saturday, May 8

MAY COUNT. **Allegany**. Contact compiler J.B. Churchill, 301-697-1223, for info and area assignments. Tally at Carey Run Sanctuary in Finzel Monday, May 10, at 7 PM. Directions to Carey Run: take Finzel exit and turn left (South) until it dead ends. Turn right and go straight at fork in road. Make first right turn onto unpaved road. Cross bridge and turn right (look for MOS sanctuary signs). Bring covered dish and Count results.

MAY COUNT #40. **Frederick**. Join the crowd for local countywide count. Contact Mike Welch, 301-874-5828 to assist.

MAY COUNT. **Cecil**. Compiler: Parke John, 410-287-6037.

MAY COUNT. **Howard**. Compiler: Paul Zucker, 301-279-7896.

MAY COUNT. **Baltimore**. International Migratory Bird Day. Baltimore City and County. For area assignments call Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771.

MAY COUNT. **Washington**. Coordinator: Dave Weesner, 201-432-7718.

MAY COUNT. **Caroline**. Coordinator: Mariana Nuttle.

MAY COUNT. **Anne Arundel**. Compiler: Dotty Mumford, 410-849-8336. See chapter newsletter for details.

MAY COUNT. **Patuxent**. PG County Coordinator: Fred Fallon, 301-249-1518. Montgomery County Coordinator: Rick Sussman, 301-774-1185.

Talbot. Special Saturday walk. Chincoteague NWR, smorgasbord of waterbirds. Bring lunch. Depart 6:30 AM Tred Avon Shopping Ctr parking lot, front of Acme, Easton. Leader: Terry Allen, 410-822-8132.

Montgomery. Upper Watts Branch, Rockville. Half day for migrant warblers, vireos, thrushes and assorted woodland residents, possible Red-shouldered Hawks. Meet 8 AM corner of Princeton Pl and Fordham St (check *A Birder's Guide* for directions). Limit: 12. Reservations required. Leader: Paul O'Brien, 301-424-6491.

Montgomery. Little Bennett Regional Park. Half day. Near peak migration for warblers and vireos, including those breeding in this varied habitat. For reservations (required), time, and directions, contact leader: Gemma Radko, 301-607-4370.

Sunday, May 9

SPRING COUNT (Audrey Carroll). **Frederick**. Call Dave Smith, 410-549-7082 to participate.

Baltimore. 7:30 AM. Milford Mill Park. Migrant warblers, thrushes, and other song birds. Wilson's Warbler possible. From Beltway (695), take exit 18, Liberty Rd, proceed west to first light at Washington Ave, turn right, proceed to light on Milford Mill Rd just after overhead bridge. Leaders: Lenny Marcus, 410-494-0394 and Simon Calle, 410-561-5940.

Baltimore. 8:30 AM. Cylburn Mansion self-guided walk. See May 2.

Harford. Harford Glen. Hike around forests and wetlands with leader Lynn Davis in search of shorebirds, migratory songbirds, and wildflowers that inhabit these inviting haunts. Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wild Ginger, and Wild Geranium should delight flower enthusiasts, while birders might enjoy Spotted, Solitary, and Least Sandpipers in addition to a mixed bag of warblers, vireos, and orioles. Meet upper parking lot 7 AM. Contact Lynn, lynnd@iximd.com, for more info.

(MOS Calendar continues on page 20)

MOS Calendar *(continued from page 19)*

Monday, May 10

MEETING. **Kent**. 7:30 PM Kent County Public Library. Speaker: *Peter Mann*, topic TBA.

Tuesday, May 11

Baltimore. 8 AM. Cromwell Valley Park. Series of weekly walks. See May 4. Leader: Ruth Culbertson, 410-825-1379.

MEETING. **Patuxent**. Monthly Chapter meeting plus annual business meeting of PG Audubon Society. *Greg Kearns* will discuss wildlife of Kruger National Park, South Africa. Outstanding slides and narration. Meet 7:30 PM at College Park Airport Museum, Cpl Scott Dr off Paint Branch Pkwy, College Park. For info, contact Fred Fallon, 301-249-1518.

Wednesday, May 12

Baltimore. 6-8 PM. Ft. McHenry Wednesday evenings. Meet outside Fort's gate (Fort Ave & Wallace St). Canceled if raining. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

Montgomery. Green Ridge SP & Allegany County. Full day, facilities natural. Meet Sidling Hill Visitor Ctr off I-68 at 6:30 AM sharp. Bring snacks, lunch, insect repellent. Four-wheel drive or pickup truck recommended. Prior arrangements to carpool via Leader highly suggested. Wear sturdy boots; some hiking necessary. Target birds include 15 species of warbler (Cerulean, Hooded, Worm-eating), Wild Turkey, Ruffed Grouse, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Limit: 10-12, based on carpooling. Reservations required. Leader: Jim Green, 301-208-2393.

Thursday May 13

Montgomery. Patuxent River drift boat trip. Half day, joint trip with ANS. Peak migration time for songbirds; also marsh and water birds. Waterproof footwear and insect repellent advisable. Check ANS newsletter for directions to park. Meet 6:30 AM entrance gate. Patuxent Park fee may be collected. Reservations required. Leader: Paul DuMont, 703-931-8994.

MEETING. **Howard**. "Tex-Mex Raptors (and Their Prey): Looking for Birds of Prey in Texas and Mexico, 2003" by *Ralph Geuder*. Longfellow Elem School, 5470 Hesperus Dr, Columbia. Hospitality and bookstore 7:30 PM, program 8 PM. For info call Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643.

Friday May 14

MEETING/PICNIC. **Cecil**. "Barbecue and Birds," 5 PM til dusk, North East Town Park. Info: Candi Lee, 410-287-0415.

Saturday May 15

Frederick. C&O Canal Warblers. Barbara Gearhart will lead trip through Frederick watershed and other places as time permits. Meet Baker Park 7:30 AM. Call Barbara, 301-473-9889, for info.

Cecil. Warblers–mix of Cecil County hotspots for spring migrants. Half day. Meet 7 AM Big Elk Mall Dunkin Donuts parking area. Leader: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, 410-392-9236.

Howard. Big Day. Dawn to dusk. Intense, all-day trip to list as many species in county as possible. Plan to walk 5-10 miles at good pace. 30-minute lunch break. Need footwear for all conditions. Call Bonnie Ott, 410-461-3361. Limit 12 people, must commit to all day.

Patuxent. Monthly nature walk at Governors Bridge Park, Gov Bridge Rd. Meet 7:30 AM at entrance gate. No reservations needed.

Baltimore. 10 AM–Noon. CCBC Essex. David Thorndill will demonstrate bird banding, followed by walk around campus. Directions: CCBC Essex (7201 Rossville Blvd, next to Franklin Square Hospital, 1 mile south of White Marsh Mall) located off Baltimore Beltway (695) exit 34 (Rosedale). At exit 34, turn onto MD Rte 7 (Philadelphia Rd) toward Rossville. Proceed one-quarter mile, turn left onto Rossville Blvd. Campus is approx 1 mile on right. Meet near tennis courts. Leader: David Thorndill, 410-780-6314.

Kent. Eastern Neck NWR. Beginners' bird walk, part two. Aimed especially at novice birders. All welcome. Meet Refuge HQ 9 AM for 2 hours. For more info contact Walter Ellison, 410-778-9568, or Peter Mann, 410-648-5205.

Carroll. Bird walk at Hashawa for spring warblers. Moderate terrain. Meet 7:30 AM Bear Branch Nature Ctr, John Owings Rd, Westminster. For more info contact leader: Jerry Tarbell, 410-857-1109.

Harford. Susquehanna SP. Known to draw both traveling birds and birders, this annual trip reaffirms the park's reputation as one of the preeminent local birding spots. Veteran leader Les Eastman will help you pick through a myriad of songbirds in hopes of getting good views of local specialties, including Baltimore and Orchard Orioles and Cerulean and Kentucky Warblers. Meet 7 AM Rock Run Mill. Contact Les, 410-734-6969, for more details.

Saturday May 15–Sunday May 16

Frederick. Big Day. Dave Smith will lead team to Birdathon 2004 at Cape May, NJ, to participate in Big Day count. Call Dave, 410-549-7082, if you want to participate or provide support to this worthy cause.

Sunday, May 16

Baltimore. 7:30 AM. Halethorpe Ponds. This undeveloped and lightly used area of Patapsco Valley SP has produced excellent birds in the last year. River, freshwater ponds, floodplain woods, and power line provide mix of habitats. Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, both orioles abundant; Black-crowned Night-Heron, Osprey, Bald Eagle likely; Pheasant, Blue Grosbeak, Northern Waterthrush, Wilson's and other warblers possible. Paths may be very wet & muddy. If time permits, we'll take side trip to Mears Farm area of Patapsco Valley SP. Half-day; bring water & snacks. Joel Martin, 410-744-9211.

Talbot. Sunday morning walk. Izaak Walton League Forest on quest for thrushes and migrants. Breakfast hosts: Terry & Patty Allen. Depart 7 AM Tred Avon Shopping Ctr parking lot, front of Acme, Easton. Leaders: Mark & Susanna Scallion, 410-310-2385.

Patuxent. Lake Artemesia and Greenbelt Park. Meet 7 AM Beltway Plaza. Leader, Dave Mozurkewich and/or Fred & Jane Fallon. For info call Fred Fallon, 301-249.1518.

Harford. Bombay Hook, DE. Day-long adventure to "the Hook" and adjacent birding mega-hotspots. The muddy impoundments, fresh and saltwater marshes, and wave-washed beaches afford great numbers and good views of shore and water birds. Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, and Red Knot are local specialties but that's not all, as European waifs, western strays, and windblown pelagics commonly occur. Bring lunch and meet 7 AM at the MD

155 and I-95 P&R. Contact leader Dave Larkin, 410-569-8319, for details.

Tuesday, May 18

Baltimore. 8 AM. Cromwell Valley Park. See May 4. Leader: Josie Gray, 410-922-1838.

Wednesday, May 19

Baltimore. 6-8 PM. Ft. McHenry Wednesday evenings. Meet outside Fort's gate (Fort Ave & Wallace St). Canceled if raining. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

MEETING. **Montgomery**. 7:30 PM Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd. *Linda Winter*, director of American Bird Conservancy's "Cats Indoors! The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats," program will explore this conservation initiative. Slides and video will review studies of cat predation on wildlife and controversial "managed" cat colonies. For more info call Don Messersmith, 301-593-5942.

Thursday, May 20

MEETING. **Caroline**. "Jug Bay Sanctuary" by Sanctuary staff, 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton. For more info contact Debby Bennett, 410-479-1343, ext 152.

Howard. Weekday walk, "Flying Creatures." Easy walk on paved paths to search for dragonflies, butterflies, and birds. No facilities. Meet Font Hill Wetlands Park off Font Hill Dr. 8 AM for 2 hours. Leader: Jo Solem, 301-725-5037.

Friday, May 21

Harford. Eden Mill. Grab a glimpse and a handful of northbound migrants on this banding and birding combo. Biologist Mark Johnson demonstrates the art and science of handling migratory birds while Brian Moyer follows up with walking tour in search of Indigo Bunting, Orchard Oriole, and Worm-eating Warbler. Meet at roadside lot, quarter mile up the road from the Mill, 7:30 AM. Contact Mark, 410-692-5978, for details.

Saturday May 22

Frederick. Lois Kauffman will take us birding along Manahan Rd and other Catoctin hotspots to find late migrants, breeding warblers, other summer residents of the area. Meet Baker Park 6:30 AM. Call Lois, 301-845-6690, for details.

Baltimore. DE Bay. Meet Nursery Rd–Hammonds P&R 7 AM or Bombay Hook 9:30 AM. See wide variety of migrating shorebirds, with spectacular assemblage of breeding-plumaged turnstones, Sanderlings, and Red Knots. Curlew Sandpiper possible. Be prepared for possible heat or biting insects. Minimal walking involved. Telescopes useful. Leader: Pete Webb, 410-486-1217.

Baltimore. 8 AM-Noon. Saturday walks at Ft. McHenry. Meet at Visitor Ctr. Canceled if raining. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

Tri-County. Bombay Hook and DE Bay shore. All-day trip for migrating shorebirds and horseshoe crabs. Leader: Charles Vaughn, 410-742-7221. Meet Asbury UMC (north parking lot), Salisbury, 7:30 AM; bring lunch, snack, drink.

Talbot. Special Saturday walk. Shorebird extravaganza, DE Shore, Bombay Hook, Port Mahon. No breakfast. Depart 7 AM Tred Avon Shopping Ctr parking lot, front of Acme, Easton. Leader: Scott Crabtree, 410-643-3237.

Sunday May 23

Baltimore. 7:30 AM. Owings Mills Mall Wetland. Willow Flycatcher, Green Heron, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Orchard Oriole live there. Directions: From Beltway I-695 exit 19 take NW Expressway I-795 to exit 4: Owings Mills. Stay in left lanes onto Owings Mills Blvd. At first traffic light turn left onto Red Run Blvd Park. Meet at Macy's lot across from gas station (do not park at station). Leader: Keith Eric Costley, 410-521-5366.

Anne Arundel. C&O Canal, Montgomery County. Migrants and local birds. Meet 5:30 AM Parole P&R. Leader: Peter Hanan, 410-672-5672.

Harford. Shorebirds. Marvel at flocks of peeps and search for species that are tough to find locally, such as Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, Red Knot, Whimbrel, and Eskimo Curlew. Beginners interested in learning basics of shorebird ID and experienced watchers searching for rarities will enjoy this morning trip to Havre de Grace and neighboring sites. Scopes helpful, though not necessary. Meet Tydings Marina 7 AM. Contact Leader: Dave Webb, 410-939-3537, for details.

Monday, May 24

MEETING. **Tri-County**. "Comprehensive Plan for Blackwater NWR," by *Glenn Carowan*, refuge manager. 7 PM Asbury UMC, Salisbury (Fox Rm, south entrance).

Tuesday, May 25

Baltimore. 8 AM. Cromwell Valley Park. See May 4. Leader: Gail Frantz, 410-833-7135.

MEETING. **Washington**. "Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs" presented by *Dr. Ben Poscover*. Meet Mt. Aetna Camp & Retreat 7:30 PM. Call Anna Hutzell, 301-797-8454, for info.

Wednesday, May 26

Baltimore. 6-8 PM. Ft. McHenry Wednesday evenings. Meet outside Fort's gate (Fort Ave & Wallace St). Canceled if raining. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

Thursday, May 27 and Saturday, May 29

Montgomery. Clive Harris will conduct a **workshop** in tern identification May 27 (time and place TBA) followed with a **field trip May 29**. Meet Ocean City Inlet parking lot 8 AM. Limited to 10, reservations required. Call Clive, 301-320-9769, for details.

Friday, May 28

Harford. W. Chapel and Paradise Rds. Join leader Dave Webb as he follows this stretch of road, just north of Aberdeen, though several types of habitat, from open farmland to densely mixed riparian forest. Possible birds include Grasshopper Sparrow, White-eyed Vireo, Magnolia and Prairie Warblers. Meet 7 AM on Gravel Hill Rd, quarter mile east of Paradise Rd. Contact Dave, 410-939-3537, for details.

Sunday, May 30

Anne Arundel. DE Bay—migrating shorebirds and horseshoe crabs. Meet 7 AM Bay 50 Shopping Ctr. Leader: Dotty Mumford, 410-849-8336.

Howard & **Montgomery.** Joint Trip. "Hot Spots for Red Knots." Meet 6 AM Broken Land Pkwy P&R, west side. Come prepared to bird ALL DAY. DE hotspots in search of shorebirds: Bombay Hook, Woodland Beach, Port

indicates **Field Trips**

(MOS Calendar continues on page 22)

MOS Calendar *(continued from page 21)*

Mahon. Bring food, water, bug repellent. Scopes and FRS radios useful. Facilities available but widely dispersed. Leaders: Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643, and Cyndie Loeper, 301-530-8826.

Harford. Susquehanna SP. Return trip to this lush riverside park for late northbound migrants and early summer natural history. Bird list could include Yellow- and Black-billed Cuckoos, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Cape May and Cerulean Warblers, with Zebra Swallowtail butterflies and others to boot. Meet 7 AM Rock Run Mill. Contact Leader Dave Ziolkowski, djziolkowski@yahoo.com, for details.

Monday, May 31

Harford. Hidden Valley/Upper Deer Creek. Administered by Rocks SP, the lightly used trails of this section recall an Appalachian park as they wind around large hemlocks and substantial cliffs. Join local resident and natural historian Dennis Kirkwood in search of Worm-eating Warbler, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and Scarlet Tanager. Meet Hidden Valley (north end Madonna Rd) 7 AM. For further info, contact Dennis, 410-692-5905.

Wednesday, June 2

Baltimore. 9:30 AM–Noon. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Meet at Visitor Ctr. Canceled in bad weather (high wind, fog, rain). Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

Thursday, June 3

ANNUAL PICNIC. **Frederick**. Pinecliff Park. Bring binos, dish to share, plate, drink, and utensils. Meet 6 PM for birding and eats.

Saturday, June 5

Frederick. Block-busting party for *Breeding Bird Atlas* led by Dave Smith. Meet 6:30 AM Baker Park. For info contact Dave, 410-549-7082.

Baltimore. 8 AM. Participate in atlasing trip to Oregon Ridge Nature Ctr. Expect variety of nesting Bluebird, Tree Swallow, Wood Thrush, Downy Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, pewee and other surprises. Kentucky Warbler and Ovenbird possible. Leaders: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771, and Peter Lev, 410-823-2962.

ANNUAL PICNIC. **Anne Arundel**. 4 PM, pot-luck. See May newsletter for details. Hosts: Linda & Dennis Baker, 410-431-7225.

ANNUAL PICNIC. **Patuxent**. Rosaryville SP. Meet Bowie P&R 7 AM, or at park. Bring picnic dish for yourself and to share. Call Fred Fallon for reservations and directions, 301-249-1518.

Sunday, June 6

Allegany. *Atlas* foray, specifics TBD. Training for *Atlas* workers and potentially some blockbusting in new "yet to be covered" block in Allegany County (probably in Green Ridge State Forest). Learn about bird behaviors and how they translate into atlas codes. Meet 7:30 AM Mason's Barn P&R, Exit 48E Cumberland I-68. Bring lunch, drink, and atlas questions. Contact J.B. Churchill, 301-697-1223, for info.

Cecil. Elk Neck State Forest. Half day. Meet Elk Neck Forest entrance parking lot 7 AM. Leader: Parke John, 410-287-6037.

Baltimore. 7:30 AM. Bird along Jones Falls. Walk through one of Baltimore City's most interesting areas. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Wood Duck, orioles, Yellow Warbler, Indigo Bunting are just a few birds you'll find. Because of possible Loyola development, check with Brian to confirm walk. Directions: Meet Poly-Western HS parking lot, Falls Rd & Cold Spring Lane, Falls Rd entrance. Leader: Brian Rollfinke, 410-542-3368.

Baltimore. 7:30 AM. Soldiers Delight. Nesting birds, including possible Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Field Sparrow, Hooded, Prairie, and Pine Warblers. A pair of nesting Blue-headed Vireos were found during June 2002 trip, Summer Tanagers in 2001. Leader: Keith Eric Costley, 410-521-5366.

Carroll. Birding around Morgan Rd, new area of county for the club. You never know what you might see. Meet 7 AM at home of trip leader, Dave Harvey, to carpool. For more info contact Dave, 410-795-3117.

Thursday, June 10

POT LUCK/FALL PLANNING MEETING. **Talbot**. Pickering Creek Audubon Ctr, Main Office. Pot luck dinner celebrating a year of great birding! All members welcome. Hosts: Mark & Susie Scallion, 410-310-2385.

Friday, June 11–Sunday, June 13

ANNUAL MOS CONFERENCE.

This year's Conference will be in Chestertown at Washington College. Look for more information on pages 1 and 24 of this issue and on the MOS website, http://www.mdbirds.org.

Saturday, June 12

Baltimore. 7:30 AM. Bird the fields of Carroll and/or Frederick Counties for singing and nesting Vesper, Grasshopper, Field, and possible Savannah Sparrows, Bobolink, Dickcissel, Horned Lark, Eastern Meadowlark, Willow Flycatcher, Red-headed Woodpecker. Bird half day or bring lunch and bird whole day. Rain date June 26. Leader: Pete Webb, 410-486-1217.

Wednesday, June 16

Baltimore. 9:30 AM. Mt Auburn Cemetery 2630 Waterview Ave, Westport. Likely to see nesting pheasants, Indigo Buntings, Willow Flycatchers. Easy walking on paved path. For detailed directions, contact leader. Meet at cemetery gate. Co-Leaders: Carol Schreter, 410-664-5151, and Paula Warner.

Saturday, June 19

Baltimore. 7:30 AM. Patapsco Valley SP, Granite Area for nesting birds. Blue-winged, Prairie and Pine Warblers, and Yellow-breasted Chat are among 6 confirmed (11 possible) breeding warblers in area. For detailed directions, contact leader: Keith Eric Costley, 410-521-5366.

Patuxent. Birding and atlasing foray to southern PG County parks. Meet Bowie P&R, time TBD. Call Fred Fallon for reservations, 301-249-1518.

Harford. Nest Searching the Scenic Gunpowder. Peek in on the home lives of some local birds as biologist Mark Johnson helps you develop an eye for their cryptic nests and telltale behaviors. Discussion will also focus on how to monitor nests safely and turning your observations into valuable records through the nest card initiative. Meet at Jerusalem Mill 7 AM. For further info, contact Mark, 410-692-5978.

indicates **Field Trips**

Tuesday, June 22

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING. **Allegany**. For 2004-2005. Meet Carey Run Sanctuary 7 PM to plan schedule for next year. Please bring ideas and suggestions.

Saturday, June 26

Patuxent. Birding and atlasing foray to southwestern PG County parks. Meet Bowie P&R, time TBD. Call Fred Fallon for reservations, 301-249.1518.

Harford. Huntley Meadows, VA. Nestled in Fairfax County's Hybla Valley, the vast wetlands and majestic forests of Huntley Meadows Park are well known for providing some of the best wildlife watching in the Washington, DC area. Highlights likely to include breeding King Rail, Least Bittern, and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, with the distinct possibility of locating Mississippi Kite. Bring lunch, repellent, and sunscreen for this 3/4 day trip with easy walking. Meet 7 AM at the MD 152 & I-95 P&R. For further info, contact Leader: Randy Robertson, 410-273-9029.

Sunday, June 27

PICNIC. **Washington**. Washington Monument SP. Bring own plates, etc, and dish to share. Contact Judy Lilga, 301-432-2276 if you plan to attend.

Cecil. Bethel WMA. Half day. Meet Big Elk Mall Dunkin Donuts parking area 8 AM. Leader: Leslie Fisher, 410-658-2427.

Saturday, July 10

Allegany. Butterflies and/or shorebirds. Ray Kiddy will lead expedition for butterflies, shorebirds, or both (depending on participant enthusiasm, recent shorebird/butterfly sightings or reports). Meet Western MD Station, Cumberland, 9 AM. Contact Ray, 301-729-1972, for info.

Friday, July 16

SUMMER SOCIAL **Harford**. Social, meeting, and program TBA at Anita Leight Estuary Ctr, Otter Pt Rd, starting 6:15 PM. Call Jean Wheeler, 410-879-7424, for add'l info and/or directions.

Saturday, July 17

Montgomery. Joint with ANS. DE coastal areas, 3/4 day. Bring lunch. Meet 7:15 AM parking lot of Bombay Hook (DE) NWR headquarters. Shorebirds, waterbirds, and songbirds along wood/marsh trail edges. Reservations required. Leader: John Bjerke, 301-963-8525. Have breakfast before meeting—Hollywood Diner in Dover and Smyrna Diner in Smyrna (both along Rte 13) open all night.

Saturday, July 24

Howard. "Dragonflies for Beginners" 9:30-11:30 AM. Meet Font Hill Wetlands Park (park sign off Font Hill Dr). Leaders: Bob & Jo Solem, 301-725-5037. Bring binos to learn basics of odonate ID. Very easy walking on paved paths around ponds. No facilities.

Saturday, July 31

Frederick. Mike Welch will take us to DE coastal refuges for shorebirds and other early fall migrants. Bring bug spray, lunch, drinks. Meet Urbana P&R South, 6 AM. Contact Mike, 301-874-5828, if going.

Harford. Twilight canoeing at Eden Mill. Take in a warm summer evening of natural history and easy exercise along one of upper Deer Creek's most scenic stretches. Dave Ziolkowski and natural historian/expert canoeist Frank Marsden interpret sights, sounds, and smells to make this a multi-sensory experience. Trip meets 4:30 PM but space is limited, so make reservations beforehand. $5 fee goes toward club donation to the Nature Ctr. Contact Dave, djziolkowski@yahoo.com, for info and reservations.

Sunday, August 1

Cecil. Early Fall Shorebirds, location TBD. Full day. Meet 7 AM Big Elk Mall Dunkin Donuts parking area. Leader: Chris Starling, 410-287-4223.

Wednesday, August 4

Baltimore. 9:30 AM-Noon. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Meet at Visitor Ctr. Canceled in bad weather. Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

Saturday, August 14

Cecil. Avalon Seawatch. Full day. Meet 7 AM Big Elk Mall Dunkin Donuts parking area. Leader: Chris Starling, 410-287-4223.

Sunday, August 15

Howard. "Dragonflies with Richard Orr" at Centennial Park. 9 AM, 2-3 hrs. Meet near tennis courts, west end of parking lot. Leader: Richard Orr, 410-730-7290. Easy walk on paved paths to search for odonates. Binos useful, facilities available.

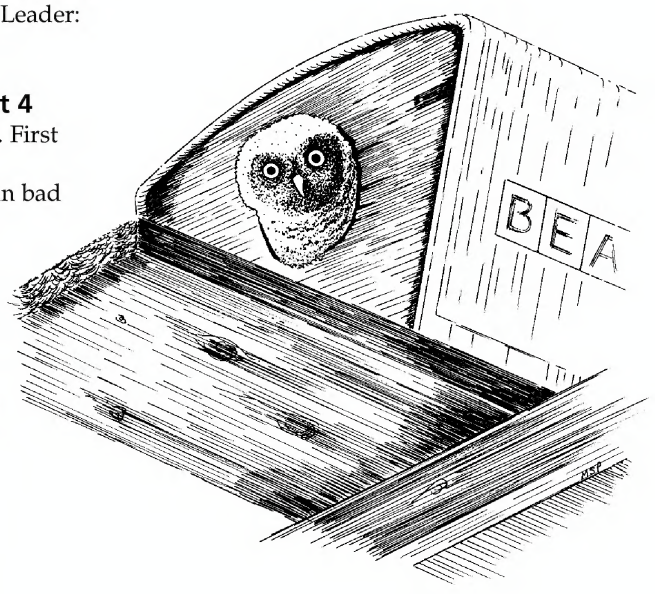
Harford. Potluck for shorebirds. Where will Dennis Kirkwood's crystal ball tell us to go this time? Presque Isle? Jamaica Bay? Pea Island? Most likely, Bombay Hook . . . but you'll not know for sure until the meeting at 7 AM at the MD 152 & I-95 P&R. Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, and lunch for this 3/4 day journey in search of shorebirds and the hottest rarities. Scopes helpful, but not necessary. For further info, contact Dennis, 410-692-5905.

Saturday, August 21

Harford. Harford shorebirds. Join experienced shorebirder Dave Webb to see that southbound shorebirds, such as Semipalmated Plover, Solitary and Pectoral Sandpipers aren't ALL plain brown. Beginners interested in learning basics of shorebird ID and experienced watchers searching for rarities will enjoy this morning trip to Havre de Grace and neighboring sites. Scopes helpful, though not necessary. Meet Tydings Marine 7 AM. For further info, contact Dave, 410-939-3537.

Sunday, August 22

PICNIC. **Washington**. Camp Harding. Bring own plates, etc. and dish to share. Contact Judy Lilga, 301-432-2276, if you plan to attend.



BOOK REVIEW

The Verb 'To Bird': Sightings of An Avid Birder, by Peter Cashwell

Paul Dry Books
Philadelphia, PA, 2003

Peter Cashwell teaches at a private school in rural southern Virginia. You know right away that he's a teacher with a rare sense of humor—he tells us early in the book that he's a member of "The Most Ancient and Sacred Order of Sentence Diagrammers and English Teachers, Local 839," a status that requires him to travel with pen in hand at all times. His facility with language is a constant delight for the reader, as he rambles over and chews at just about every facet of birding, from the birds themselves to the eccentric and obsessed characters who constitute Cashwell's little world of expert and not-so-expert birding buddies. The book's 16 chapters run the gamut from scholarly review (the etymology of bird names) to anecdote (a nighttime vigil culminating in moonlit views of Great Horned Owls) to an aggrieved reflection on the thoughtless importers to America of Starlings and House Sparrows. In truth, this is a book where the reader can start virtually anywhere within its pages without any necessity or obligation to have visited the earlier parts first.

Cashwell's descriptive writing is a lot of fun. For example, here's his take on the Prothonotary Warbler: "The head, neck, and breast of the male. . . are a yellow so intense it could only be produced by the controlled fission of a goldenrod atom—a rich, searing yellow, too deep for lemons and too bright for butterscotch." And here is his sardonically funny description of BCD (Birding Compulsive Disorder), an affliction well known to most of us: "Pete Cashwell's head turns for a moment, then returns to its original position. It's a motion he will make dozens of times in the next hour. He is unable to keep his eyes trained on an object for more than a second or two. Inside his swiveling head is a normal human brain, with all the intelligence of a normal person, but tragically, he will never do normal things—read a book, drive to the store, or play outside with his children—without his head swinging around at the slightest perception of movement. Somewhere in his brain is a misfiring, a small electrical or chemical flaw, that will allow him no peace."

Entertaining prose like this is intriguingly complemented by a dozen or more quirky, and in some cases downright murky, pen and ink drawings by Grant Silverstein. Shorebird lovers familiar with the "beach" along Port Mahon Rd in Delaware will be struck by how artfully Silverstein's two-page illustration captures the essential dreadfulness of the place.

Okay, *The Verb 'To Bird'* isn't *War and Peace*. Nor is it in the same must-read category as *Sibley's Birding Basics.* Nevertheless I can't imagine a better book to have in hand on a cross-country airplane trip or a lengthy sojourn in the doctor's waiting room.

—D.H. Michael Bowen, Montgomery Bird Club

LAST CALL

. . . for **pledging for the World Series of Birding teams:**
- for the MOS team, the Atlas and Pronatura Veracruz: www.holyshrikes.com
- for Pickering Creek Audubon Center: bbaer@intercom.net

. . . for **Research Proposals,** deadline June 1. Contact Gwen Brewer, glbrewer@comcast.net.

. . . for **Conference sign-up**. Contact Janet Shields, 301-416-7109 or janetbill@prodigy.net.

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